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Celebrity pg 51

Jolie snubs Obama once again

Shaw may offer better TV variety

PROGRAMMING An analyst says Canadian TV viewers could see better U.S. programming on Canwest Global TV stations now that Calgary-based Shaw Communications has acquired the stations in a $2-billion deal that shakes up the country's broadcast sector.

Desjardins Securities analyst Maher Yaghi said the transaction could lead Shaw to buy more and better American programs to help increase Global's ratings and make the stations more competitive.

Shaw will get 11 local Global TV stations across Canada and a group of specialty channels, including Showcase, MovieTime and HGTV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local pg 3

Cops corral city gangs

On the web
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Kardashian Scent of a woman

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Kim Kardashian leaves the Citytv building in downtown Toronto yesterday morning after appearing on Breakfast Television to promote her signature fragrance.

What lies beneath?

Mayoral candidate Rossi calls for subway expansion

Rocco Rossi is the latest mayoral candidate to jump on board the subway expansion train, promising to build two kilometres of track every year over the next decade.

On average, this would mean one station stop per year. The expansion would probably head east off the Sheppard line toward the Scarborough Town Centre, then south to connect with the Danforth line, he said.

The initiative comes with a $4.5-billion price tag — an amount Rossi says the city can afford if it sells Toronto Hydro and other assets, then use that cash to clear the $2.5-billion debt.

"Every year, we spend $450 million to carry that debt. If interest rates rise as forecast, that number will rise, too," he announced yesterday morning. "If we can agree in this election to sell some of the things we own but no longer need ... we will be at least $450 million a year richer."

And that, Rossi said, is "by coincidence, the cost of two new kilometres of track and one new station every year."

"Torontonians want subways, and as their mayor, I will deliver," Rossi said.

Last year, the province had agreed to invest more than $9 billion in Transit City construction, which will encompass eight new light rail transit lines across the city. But in March, the McGuinty government announced it would be delaying just less than half of that funding.

Rossi has called for a halt to Transit City construction until after the election. But yesterday, he said he wouldn't scrap it entirely — or turn away the provincial dollars — but it would need modifications he did not explain.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transit City Plus

- Rocco Rossi calls his proposal "Transit City Plus." In addition to the subway expansion, the initiative includes existing approved plans to tunnel north to York University, more bus routes, more rail development, and a technological overhaul of the TTC.

Bell Aliant wins injunction against Rogers' claims

INTERNET Bell Aliant said yesterday it has won an injunction to stop Rogers Communications Inc. from claiming to have the "fastest and most reliable" high-speed Internet service.

Bell Aliant said a New Brunswick court ordered Rogers to stop claiming to have the "fastest speed," "most reliable speed," or "fastest and most reliable speed."

Rogers was forced last year to pull ads saying it had Canada's most reliable wireless network after it was sued by Telus Corp.

Telus argued successfully in a B.C. court that the claims to superiority couldn't be supported after a new advanced wireless network was launched last November by Telus and Montreal-based BCE Inc., which is a major shareholder in Bell Aliant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Local

Net could bridge divide: Iggy

Michael Ignatieff, left, is promising high-speed Internet access for all rural, remote and northern communities. The Liberal leader and MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore says he would ensure 100 per cent access within three years of taking power. Ignatieff says his plan is intended to "bridge the rural-urban divide" and help unite the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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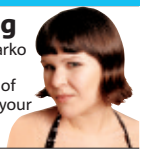
Tomorrow's Metro

Relating

Sofi Papamarko on the importance of listening to your mom.



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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Rejoice, for spring has sprung ... unless you're in Alberta, that is. More at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Marriage may or may not make you healthier, but Sexcetera has some tips to help the cause, and Backbeat counts down music's loveliest ladies

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Cops corral 71 in gang raids

More than 1,000 officers from across Ontario co-operate on about 100 busts

A crackdown on two notorious gangs allegedly operating in Toronto's north end has resulted in more than 70 arrests and a haul of guns, drugs and diamonds.

The two gangs, known as the Falstaff Crips and the Five Point Generals, "have terrorized neighbourhoods in which they operate," Toronto police Chief William Blair told a news conference yesterday.

He said the gangs were allegedly involved in trafficking drugs and guns in the area, as well as a significant amount of violence.

After a nine-month investigation dubbed Project Corral, more than 1,000 police officers conducted about 100 pre-dawn raids early yesterday in Toronto and Ottawa. The co-ordinated raids involved officers from numerous police services across Ontario, including about 340 tactical officers.

They arrested 71 people and seized 19 firearms and at least $30,000 in cash, as well as body armour, vehicles and diamonds. Also seized were drugs including cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, hashish oil and more than 10,000 ecstasy pills.

Blair said campaigns like Project Corral do have an impact, although it takes much time and effort to help a community recover from the effects of violence and intimidation and the people responsible for creating it.

"When we put them in jail, we are making our community safer," he said.

"Two very well-established, violent gangs that have been operating in our city for some time, they have been responsible for a significant amount of the violence and the fear that exists in our communities," Blair said.

"I think we have a responsibility to disrupt and dismantle the activities of such well-organized groups." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto police Chief William Blair looks on yesterday after speaking at a press conference. Blair said raids focused on two notorious gangs: The Falstaff Crips and the Five Point Generals.

International connections

- Staff Insp. Mike Earl said Project Corral began in August 2009 after a "spiked increase in violence" in the northwest area of Toronto.
- Earl said the two gangs have been linked to the Shower Posse, an organization based in Jamaica that operates above street gangs, supplying and controlling them.

Split the Queen streetcar line, argue stranded west-end residents

TRANSIT After more than a year of tinkering with the management of Toronto's iconic streetcar line, the TTC is still stranding some west-end riders for up to three-quarters of an hour, even during rush periods, according to a group of residents along the Queensway and Lake Shore Boulevard.

They want the TTC to restore a separate 507 Long Branch route that would run from west of Kipling up to Roncesvalles to Dundas West station.

That route was cut, along with various other services, in 1995, when the reduction was justified by lower employment and ridership along the Queensway and Lake Shore. But in recent years, that stretch has experienced a residential revival.

Nevertheless, in a report going to the transit commissioners tomorrow, TTC staff recommend against splitting the Queen line at Humber, in favour of leaving the 501 streetcar as the longest route in North America, stretching from Victoria Park in the east to the west end.

A Long Branch line would provide better service to about 8,000 riders daily, concedes the TTC report. But it would cost about $825,000 per year and possibly up to 300 riders daily from among the 2,500 who would have to make an additional transfer at the Humber Loop.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

MISSISSAUGA Hazel McCallion's lawyer has warned the Mississauga judicial inquiry that making her testify just before the Oct. 25 election would be "unfair" to the longtime mayor. The inquiry into a controversial land deal involving McCallion's son — and tangentially the mayor herself — is already behind schedule, in part because it's taking a long time get documents. There is speculation it could extend past Labour Day and the Sept. 10 deadline for nominations. "It's fundamentally unfair, particularly for the mayor, to have the inquiry overlap that period," lawyer Elizabeth McIntyre said at a hearing last week.

BRAMPTON A mistrial has been declared against one of three defendants accused in a $1.7-million car fraud. In ending the trial for car salesman Shahid (Sean) Sheikh, 50, yesterday, Justice Casey Hill decided the Brampton trial would continue next Monday against Lynn Fuller, a dealership business manager, and Ranjit Bisram, a car purchaser. Hill declared a mistrial for Sheikh after he granted Douglas Usher's request to be removed as his lawyer. Hill told Sheikh he was "stopping" the trial for him. He didn't intend to force him to defend himself in the complex trial where he has been using an interpreter. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Toddler killed in driveway accident

York regional police say a two-year-old boy died after being struck by a car as a family member was backing it out of the driveway. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Businesses need HST to compete: McGuinty

Premier says families will benefit in long run

Ontario families will pay more in taxes each year because of the 13 per cent harmonized sales tax that kicks in July 1, but the province's businesses need the tax change to become more competitive, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"I think that for families at the outset there will be an increase in taxation," said McGuinty. "Experience tells us that over time those savings (for businesses) will in fact be passed on to consumers. It's not going to happen all at once."

McGuinty said he was confident Ontario residents understand the need to introduce the HST so businesses will no longer have to pay the provincial sales tax on goods they use, allowing them to hire more staff and lower prices.

"We've got to ensure that our businesses can compete in a global economy," he said.

The New Democrats released a study Monday suggesting families will pay hundreds, if not thousands of dollars more in taxes once the single sales tax takes effect.

McGuinty said he hadn't seen the study.

"I'll leave it to families; they can look to the numbers or they can look to independent reports," he told the legislature.

The premier pointed to other studies showing low-income families would be better off under the HST because of income tax cuts and government rebates, while it would be a "wash" for middle-income households while the wealthy would indeed pay more taxes.

The government will offer one-time payments of up to $1,000 for families and $300 for singles to offset the initial impact of the HST, noted McGuinty.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said, "It's a shift of taxes that takes money out of families' pockets and puts it into the business community. This harmonized sales tax is going to hit people when they're already down."

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said, "We know the truth — it's a big tax grab that's going to hurt families and seniors most."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier McGuinty

Starting July 1

- The HST will apply to about 17 per cent of consumer goods and services that are currently exempt from the eight per cent provincial sales tax, including energy costs such as home heating fuel and gasoline.

Rogers Media CEO to retire

COMMUNICATIONS Tony Viner, president and CEO of Rogers Media, will retire once a successor is found, Rogers Communications Inc. announced yesterday.

Viner, 63, has worked for Rogers since 1982.

The company commended Viner for growing Rogers Media to one of Canada's largest diversified media companies from three radio stations when he started.

"Our media division has dramatically expanded and thrived under his leadership so that today Rogers Media has many of the country's premier media brands," stated Nadir Mohamed, president and CEO of Rogers Communications.

Rogers Media owns 53 radio stations across Canada, as well as the Citytv and OMNI television networks and specialty channels like Sportsnet and the Shopping Channel. It also publishes more than 70 magazines including Maclean's and Chatelaine and owns the Toronto Blue Jays and Toronto's Rogers Centre.

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MDC acquires PR firm Allison & Partners
Toronto-headquartered MDC Partners Inc. has acquired a majority interest in Allison & Partners, a San Francisco-based public relations firm with an impressive list of blue-chip clients, including Best Western International, Aramark, Hard Rock Hotels Las Vegas and Sony. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Al Jazeera English debuts in Canada

Canadian bureau opening in Toronto in June, says managing director

Al Jazeera English has arrived in Canada, with a bureau in Toronto soon to follow, according to an official.

The English-language arm of the Middle East-based news channel debuted yesterday with programming that included a discussion on Canada's involvement in Afghanistan.

Tony Burman, the managing director of Al Jazeera English operations, said local coverage will expand with the opening of a Canadian bureau in Toronto in June.

"To many Canadians who are really are involved in the world, I think they're going to learn that this is a real opportunity to connect with international news at a time when others are cutting back."
Tony Burman, Al Jazeera English

Future programming is set to include a look at what Canada's departure from Afghanistan in 2011 will mean for NATO, in-depth features on Alberta's oilsands, and a report from Winnipeg on how the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings will impact aboriginal people.

But aside from that, Burman said the 24-hour news channel provides a much-needed perspective little seen in Canada.

"There are news stories from 18 countries on Al Jazeera English today and many of these countries are never mentioned on Canadian television," said Burman.

"To many Canadians who are really are involved in the world, I think they're going to learn that this is a real opportunity to connect with international news at a time when others are cutting back."

AJE received federal approval in November, following a 30-day consultation period.

Al Jazeera English is distinct from Al Jazeera Arabic, which failed in its bid to earn a Canadian broadcast licence in 2003 due to strong opposition over of a perceived anti-Israeli bias.

Al Jazeera English was started in 2006 and now has more than 70 news bureaus around the world.

As of yesterday, it can be seen in Canada on Bell TV on channel 516 and Rogers in Ontario on channel 176.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soft drink maker Cott staying the course: Chief executive

BUSINESS Soft drink maker Cott Corp. is sticking to what its chief executive says has worked best over the past year: Nurturing relationships with the retailers who stock its store-branded drinks on their shelves.

CEO Jerry Fowden told investors at the company's annual meeting yesterday in Toronto that Cott spent much of last year reining in expenses, and ensuring the supermarkets, convenience stores and news stands that carry its product were happy.

The plan worked and so Cott, the world's third-largest soft drink provider, plans to keep pushing it forward, he said.

"We will remain focused on further strengthening our customer relationships (and) on additional operating cost reductions," he told investors ahead of the company's first-quarter earnings results, which are expected before the markets open today.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS
Cott Corp. CEO Jerry Fowden speaks during the company's annual general meeting yesterday in Toronto. Fowden said the company will continue to nurture relationships with its retailers.

He continued, Cott will also be maintaining its "diligence on capital expenditure and continuing to manage cash conservatively."

Cott supplies numerous retail giants including Loblaw, Costco, Metro Inc. and convenience chain 7-Eleven Inc.

Fowden said that shoppers have taken a stronger liking to its private-label products as they hunted down lower priced beverages as the economy faltered.

In February, Cott reported a full-year profit of $81.5 million, more than recovering from a $122.8-million loss in 2008. Revenue dropped to $1.6 billion compared to $1.65 billion in the previous year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$1M cost to replace milk new fodder for backers of prison farms

INMATES A $1-million price tag on milk for inmates at three Ontario institutions is providing new ammunition for supporters of Canada's threatened prison farms.

They say the cost of replacing milk now produced at one of the country's six prison farms undercuts the case made by the Conservative government for closing the farms, which are staffed by inmates.

"It makes no sense," Dianne Dowling of the Save our Prison Farms campaign said yesterday.

"(Inmates) are producing food for the system."

The estimated cost of replacing milk from Frontenac Institution, where the dairy herd is slated for auction next month, is contained in a government tender notice.

In the notice, Correctional Service of Canada solicits bids for milk for three Ontario facilities in Kingston, Campbellford and Gravenhurst. The notice pegs the value of the contract to taxpayers at $990,000, excluding GST.

Corrections spokeswoman Christa McGregor said the government did not expect food-procurement costs would rise as result of the closures.

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Police ID teenage shooting victim

Police have identified a teen who died after being shot in west-end Toronto. Mitchell Leton Celise, 17, of Toronto, was rushed to hospital Monday afternoon but died of his injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto wins big at Webbys

Awards celebrate top Internet achievements of year

Local content factored in heavily at this year's Webby Awards, which recognize Internet achievement.

Two prizes are handed out in almost 70 categories: The Webby, as chosen by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, and the People's Voice award, chosen by web users.

Love Letters to the Future, designed by Toronto-based Xenophile Media Inc., won both awards in the Green category. The site allows users to send a video, image or message to be seen by future generations.

In December, the top 100 entries, as voted by the site's visitors, were placed into a time capsule and delivered to the climate-change conference in Copenhagen.

Swarm Entertainment of Toronto won the Webby Netart award for Nawls, an interactive multimedia web comic.

AmoebaCorp of Toronto won the Webby for best use of animation or motion graphics for a promotional site for the Pop Shoppe.

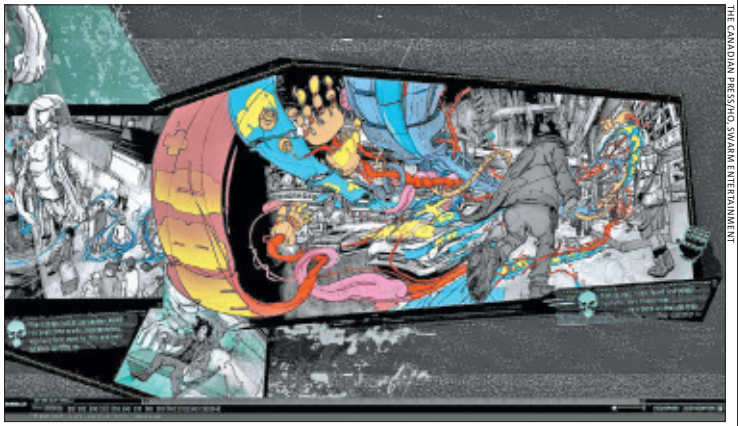
1000 Awesome Things by Toronto's Neil Pasricha won the People's Voice award in the "blog — cultural" category.

Manifest Communications of Toronto won the People's Voice award in the activism category for a site for the Canadian Stem Cell Foundation.

And RAPP of Toronto won the People's Voice award in the pharmaceuticals category for a promotional site for a GlaxoSmithKline product, Alli.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 48



THE CANADIAN PRESS/NO SWARM ENTERTAINMENT

Toronto's Swarm Entertainment won the Webby Netart award for Nawls, above, an interactive multimedia web comic at this year's Webby Awards, which recognize Internet achievement.

On the web

- loveletterstothefuture.com
- nawlz.com
- thepopshoppe.com
- 1000awesomethings.com
- stemcellfoundation.ca
- myalli.com

Contract out, sell assets to solve deficit, board urges

FINANCES Toronto should contract out garbage collection, move to a less generous pension plan and look at asset sales to slay the city's deficit dragon, says the Toronto Board of Trade.

"We can't continue down Toronto's current financial path. It's not doable and sustainable and at some point it will implode on itself," Carol Wilding, the board's president, said after releasing a report titled Bridging the Chasm: Fixing the City's Finances.

"We're really looking to the next mayor and the next council and hoping they'll look at our solutions."

The board in an earlier report predicted Toronto will face a $1.2-billion deficit in 2019 if spending goes unchecked

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Order to zip it spurs lawsuit

FREE SPEECH For the second time in two years, Jim Richards has been silenced at Clarington council meetings for using the word "bully." Now a lawsuit will do the talking for the Orono resident who feels twice wronged in his right to free speech.

After Mayor Jim Abernethy refused to apologize Monday for ordering Richards to zip it a week ago, Richards said he would take legal action.

At a council meeting last week, Richards called the chair of Durham Region a "bully" while stating his preference to elect rather than appoint someone to the position.

Jim Richards

Two years ago, Abernethy and council imposed a gag order on Richards at municipal meetings for calling Anderson a bully at regional council because he had reduced a mother to tears during a grilling over her concerns about building a garbage incinerator.

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Toronto man arrested on child porn charges
A Toronto man is facing child pornography-related charges after allegedly trying to meet with an 18-year-old woman he had met online. Jeffrey Marks, 27, is charged with possessing child pornography, as well as making and distributing child pornography and two counts of failing to comply with probation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

World's girls to gather for summit

Stronach foundation hosting forum for young leaders days ahead of G20

Are you Canada's G20 girl? G, as in G(irls)20 Summit.

Girls from the G20 nations — whose members include Canada, Argentina, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., Germany, China, and France — are being asked to represent their country at a Toronto summit that will take place before the June gathering of global leaders.

They'll be expected to talk about problems that plague girls in their homeland and have ideas on how to solve them.

The young women at the summit, whose chief organizer is the Belinda Stronach Foundation, will choose the agenda when they meet in Toronto 10 days before the G20 meeting proper.

They'll likely talk about school, early pregnancy, the burden of girls' work, and maybe the hot topic of abortion. The solutions will be passed on to the heavyweights at G20 summit June 26-27.

Girls more vulnerable globally: Groups

There are powerful arguments for the focus on girls. Some international agencies say that girls, who are more vulnerable than boys in the developing world, should be at the centre of any development program.

- Half of all sexual assaults worldwide are against girls 15 and younger.
- Very young mothers, those under 15, have a mortality rate five times higher than mothers in their early 20s.
- Overall around the world, females carry a heavy burden. They are responsible for two-thirds of global work hours yet they receive just one-tenth of its income.

The criteria? Be 18 to 20 years old, "passionate, forward-thinking (and) solution oriented", the application says.

"We want to make sure we get as grassroots as we can — it's not about the girl with the highest grade point average or the poorest girl," said Farah Mohamed, president of the Belinda Stronach Foundation, which formally announced the girls' meeting yesterday.

"We want girls who possess leadership qualities, who can speak frankly of their lives and their challenges but also opportunities. This is a positive campaign." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Insurer claims home is safe — but gas fumes linger: Family

CLAIM The house smells. There's a distinct gasoline odour in two rooms on the upper floor; another room smells uncannily like bleach. An hour inside the house and your eyes itch and your nose is runny.

"They say the house is fine ... that we can move in," said Lina Albi.

"I can't even stay inside for a couple of hours. How can we move back?"

"They" is Intact Insurance Company, the home insurer Albi alleges has turned its back on them.

In the early morning of May 10, 2009, a neighbour backed his car into the side of her North York house, smashing into a gas meter and a side wall. A tankful of gasoline seeped into the soil and the foundation.

The insurance company hired multiple crews for the repairs and cleanup.

They dug up part of the basement and replaced the gasoline-soaked soil. But one year later, the smell still lingers and now the family says the insurer has walked away, blaming the problem on kerosene in the foundation.

"I can't even stay inside for a couple of hours. How can we move back?"
Lina Albi

"They said the kerosene has been there since we bought the house," said Albi, who moved in with her husband, Joe, in 1980. "It was a new house ... there's never been any problem. Now we don't know what to do."

Intact Insurance told the Toronto Star it had no comment about the case. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

According to the Albi family, their Toronto home has been uninhabitable since an automobile crashed into it and contaminated the house with gasoline. Lina Albi and her children, from left, Adrian, Isabella, Franco and Michael no longer live in the home due to the smell of gasoline.

Children's Aid Societies to appeal funding

COURTS Several Children's Aid Societies in Ontario have asked a court to review their funding in an attempt to secure more money so they can properly protect children.

Children's Aid Societies across the province have been facing a $67-million deficit and have long complained about the need for more money to avoid cuts.

They are now using an option to take their case to the courts, asking a London, Ont., court to review the decisions made by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

The 11 Children's Aid Societies involved in the case allege the government review process was biased and the outcome predetermined.

The province has already appointed a commission to study the workings of the Children's Aid system, and promised to work on a long-term plan to address the funding crisis. It has also provided $22.5 million in one-time funding in February to keep society doors open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DON JAIL DEATH The family of a 32-year-old man beaten to death at the Don Jail is suing Ontario's Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and Toronto police. Three men are charged with first-degree murder in Jeff Munro's beating — allegedly sparked by a dispute over a bag of potato chips — last November. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Three dead in Edmonton train crash

Three people ere killed in a collision between a truck and a Via passenger train during morning rush hour in Edmonton yesterday. Police say the dead include a man and two children under 10 years old. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Winter wallop slams Alberta

Another wintry blast blew through most of Alberta, where wet snow driven by swirling winds caused near whiteout conditions in some regions. Police advised drivers between Calgary and Edmonton to stay off highways, while a number of flights in both cities were delayed or cancelled. Ironically, a safety event for emergency responders in Calgary had to be cancelled because of the poor weather. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper axes funding for 11 women's groups

The Harper government has cut funding for 11 women's groups in the last two weeks — just as it prepares to champion maternal health at next month's G8 summit.

Kim Bulger, executive director of Match International, says her group is one of 11 to lose funding.

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says performance issues were behind Match's funding cut.

But Bulger says the cut is part of a pattern of "ideologically driven" punishment against feminist groups — particularly those that support funding for abortion as part of the maternal health initiative.

The government has said it will pay for family planning but not abortion.

The cuts come to light a day after Conservative Senator Nancy Ruth warned women's groups they risk a government backlash if they don't "shut the f— up" on the abortion issue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda, shown yesterday at a Halifax press conference, says funding cuts to 11 women's groups were based on performance.

Cannon: Act quickly on Iran nukes

G8 Global powers need to agree quickly to put a stop to Iran's nuclear activities, says Canada's foreign affairs minister.

A day after boycotting an "aggressive and provocative" speech by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Lawrence Cannon urged the UN Security Council to sign on soon to sanctions against the Middle Eastern country. "We're at a point in time where we have to move forward with sanctions, and hopefully the UN Security Council will be able to do that shortly," he said after a speech to G8 officials. THE CANADIAN PRESS

UN talks

- The Security Council is holding discussions on sanctions this week in New York, as the broader United Nations debates how to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

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Centenary Navy seal

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sailors march to the city hall in Halifax yesterday as the Canadian navy marks its centenary. The navy requested the Freedom of the City in a ceremony that dates back to 15th-century England, which grants trusted military units the right to enter a city with drums beating and bayonets fixed.

News in brief

CHARGES A 71-year-old man has been charged with sexual assaulting two elderly women at the nursing home where he lived in Cambridge. Waterloo Regional Police allege the incidents happened between December and last month, and involved inappropriate touching. The women, 77 and 87, were not physically injured. David Weber is charged with three counts of sexual assault. He is scheduled to appear in court July 16. Police say Weber is at another nursing home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's pricey construction due to regulations, says group

INDUSTRY Quebec's heavily regulated construction industry is, according to a new report, a serious factor in driving up the cost of building projects in the province.

An economic note produced by the Montreal Economic Institute says all of Quebec would benefit, from the project bosses to the workers, if the province's strict rules were relaxed.

Provincial rules set out 26 different construction trades — compared with just six in Ontario — and employers can only hire workers who hold very specific certifications.

Quebec's construction industry has been under the microscope since a number of scandals emerged in 2009 linking alleged cost overruns to organized crime and corruption. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Group: Ottawa failed to protect B.C. salmon stocks from toxic pollution
A B.C. environmental group has filed a complaint against the federal government for failing to protect the Fraser River salmon fishery from pollution. Salmon stocks in the river collapsed last year, and the federal government announced a public inquiry that is now getting underway. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian who diffused bombs killed in blast

Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Blake, deployed for the first time to Afghanistan only a couple of weeks ago, died from the blast of a makeshift bomb, the very type of device he was in the country to defuse.

The 37-year-old was killed Monday by an improvised explosive device while he and his team were walking back to camp after disarming another IED near Pay-e-Moluk, a village in the Panjwaii district about 25 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City.

Blake was known as a compassionate and approachable leader among his military brethren, whose pockets he picked at games of chance, the commander of Canadian troops in Afghanistan said.

"Jokingly known as the 'Poker Pirate,' he enjoyed pillaging his army friends during friendly card games," Brig.-Gen. Dan Menard said yesterday.

"He had a great smile and a genuine laugh and his friends considered themselves very lucky to have known him."

The Simcoe, Ont., native is the first Canadian sailor to die in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002, according to the Canadian Forces.

Blake, who coached peewee hockey and competed in triathalons, leaves behind his wife, Priscilla, and two sons, ages six and 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CANADIAN DEPT. OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Blake, 37, died Monday after an improvised explosive device detonated about 25 kilometres southwest of Kandahar City.

RCMP restricts Taser use

POLICY The Mounties say that from now on they will fire stun guns only when people are hurting someone or clearly about to do so.

Accused of overusing Tasers, the RCMP introduced new policies yesterday to restrict their use to nipping violent confrontations in the bud.

The revamped operational manual says officers should limit Taser use to incidents in which a person is "causing bodily harm" or will "imminently" lash out.

The directive mirrors a recommendation from former judge Thomas Braidwood, head of a B.C. public inquiry on Taser use prompted by the death of airline passenger Robert Dziekanski.

The RCMP watchdog, which has sharply criticized the force's stun-gun policies, welcomed the announcement as a "significant improvement."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory denies Guergis replacement

POLITICS A Conservative mover and shaker with a metre-long professional resumé says she is not a candidate to replace Helena Guergis — at least right now.

Dr. Kellie Leitch sent tongues wagging in Guergis' Ontario riding of Simcoe-Grey when she showed up at a meeting of local Conservatives two weeks ago. "I'm not running, I'm not a candidate. Right now there's not an opening," said Leitch.

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Rabbi dies at 65

Israeli Rabbi David Forman, founder of Rabbis for Human Rights, a prominent group defending Palestinians, has died, a colleague said yesterday. He was 65. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Suspected Pink Panther nabbed

Police in Montenegro say they have arrested a suspected member of the so-called Pink Panther ring of thieves sought by Austria over a 2008 heist. Police said yesterday Bojan Vuckovic, 24, was arrested last week. Vuckovic is suspected of taking part in a robbery of a jewelry shop in Vienna in November 2008. The Pink Panthers are believed to be mainly from the Balkans. They are suspected of jewel thefts worth more than $150 million US in Europe, Asia and the Persian Gulf. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomb suspect co-operating

Man arrested in NYC plot the son of retired Pakistani military officer

A Pakistani-born U.S. citizen was charged yesterday with terrorism and attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction in the botched Times Square bombing. The government said he confessed to receiving explosives training in Pakistan.

Faisal Shahzad — the son of a retired air force officer in a wealthy Pakistani family — was arrested late Monday night after he was pulled off a plane that was about to fly to the Middle East. According to the complaint, Shahzad confessed to buying a sport utility vehicle, rigging it with a homemade bomb and driving it Saturday night into Times Square, where he tried to detonate it.

In Pakistan, intelligence officials said several people had been detained in connection with the Times Square case.

Shahzad admitted to receiving bomb-making training in Waziristan, the lawless tribal region where the Pakistani Taliban operates with near impunity, according to the complaint filed in Manhattan federal court.

The complaint said he returned from Pakistan in February, telling an immigration agent that he had been visiting his parents for five months and had left his wife behind.

ORKUT.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a photo from Orkut.com, this man was identified by neighbours in Connecticut as Faisal Shahzad.

"Based on what we know so far, it is clear that this was a terrorist plot aimed at murdering Americans in one of the busiest places in our country," Attorney General Eric Holder said in Washington.

Shahzad was on board a Dubai-bound flight that was taxiing away from the gate at New York's Kennedy Airport late Monday when the plane was turned around and federal authorities took him into custody. Federal officials had placed him on a "no-fly" list hours before his arrest. Holder said Shahzad was talking to investigators, providing them with valuable information, The FBI read Shahzad his constitutional rights after he provided the information, and he continued to co-operate, FBI Deputy Director John Pistole said.

U.S. President Barack Obama said "hundreds of lives" may have been saved Saturday night by the quick action of ordinary citizens and law enforcement authorities who raised the alarm about the 1993 Nissan Pathfinder rigged with a crude bomb made of gasoline, propane and fireworks. The SUV, which had begun smoking, was parked on a bustling street in Times Square.

Shahzad is the son of a former top Pakistani air force officer and deputy director general of the civil aviation authority, according to Kifyat Ali, the cousin of Shahzad's father.

"This is a conspiracy so the (Americans) can bomb more Pashtuns," Ali said, referring to a major ethnic group in Peshawar and the nearby tribal areas of Pakistan and southwest Afghanistan. "He was never linked to any political or religious party here."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Disturbed'

- Pakistan's embassy says it will work with U.S. intelligence to unravel the failed Times Square bombing, but at the moment it appears the would-be bomber was a lone "disturbed individual."

Top Republican presidential hopefuls warned of the dangers of being on the Fox News payroll.
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The price of living in New York City?

NEW YORK Another failed terrorist plot. Another mass sigh of relief.

The Times Square car bombing attempt last weekend was just the latest in a long list of schemes that for nearly two decades have placed New York City squarely at the centre of a sinister bull's-eye. A breed of hardened wariness has taken hold for many New Yorkers — the price they must pay to live there.

"I've never felt as though I was out of a bull's-eye," said Lee Ielpi, a retired firefighter whose son, also a firefighter, died in the Sept. 11 attacks. "The event did not end on 9/11. The event has continued right on. These people are going to come back. Saturday just reinforces that."

There have been at least nine planned terror attacks in the city since Sept. 11, 2001. The terrorists involved hoped variously to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge, to blow up financial institutions, to smuggle explosive materials into the city, to detonate explosives on the subway, to release cyanide into the subway system, to ignite an airport jet fuel pipeline, and to collapse commuter train tunnels at ground zero.

And, in 1993, there was the first attack on the World Trade Center, where Islamic extremists exploded a rented van loaded with fertilizer in a parking garage, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

More often than not, though, the schemes have failed. On Saturday, the smoking SUV was noticed without the explosives inside doing any damage. But for New Yorkers, the question always remains: What about next time?

ADAM ROUNTREE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

There have been at least nine planned terror attacks in New York City since Sept. 11, 2001.

"One might fall through the cracks. And that's the greatest fear," Long Island resident Jack Brijmohan said Monday, standing on the corner where the smoking car bomb was parked a few days earlier. "There's always unguarded moments."

The NYPD hopes there aren't many of those. It's setting up 3,000 closed-circuit security cameras covering lower Manhattan, and a similar effort is underway in the Times Square area. The department embeds officers with foreign law enforcement agencies and sends them to the scenes of international terrorist attacks in an effort to share information and better understand and guard against similar violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MIDDLE EAST The Palestinian president warned yesterday that a fire in a West Bank mosque he blamed on extremist Jewish settlers could endanger Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, just before they are set to resume. A statement from his office said Mahmoud Abbas called the fire a "criminal" act that "represented a threat to the efforts to revive the peace process" because the Israeli army protects the settlers. The fire ripped through the mosque in the village of Luban a-Sharkiyeh early yesterday, but by nightfall it was not clear whether it was arson, as Palestinians charged, or accidental, as Israeli media reported.

IRAQ A senior Iraqi security official said yesterday forces have dismantled a militant network suspected of sending suicide attackers in bomb-laden cars to strike three embassies in Baghdad in April. The attacks on the German, Iranian and Egyptian embassies killed 46 people. Iraq's presidential council, meanwhile, issued a rare statement of concern about the two months of post-election wrangling that could be seen as a rebuke to the prime minister's efforts to contest the vote results.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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France agrees to return Maori heads to New Zealand

French lawmakers decided yesterday to return 16 tattooed and mummified Maori heads to New Zealand, ending years of debate on what to do with the human remains acquired long ago by French museums seeking exotic curiosities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kim arrives in China for 'secret' visit

BEIJING North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong Il was making his way yesterday to China's capital on a rare overseas trip meant to be so secret Beijing refused to confirm it — despite videos shot by foreign media showing him leaving a Chinese hotel.

Kim is expected to meet with President Hu Jintao and other top Chinese leaders just as South Korea inches closer to blaming the North for the recent sinking of a navy ship that killed 46 sailors.

Kim's visits to China — North Korea's chief benefactor — are usually not officially announced until he leaves the country, but he was photographed leaving a hotel after reportedly arriving in the Chinese port city of Dalian aboard a luxury 17-car armoured train. Kim, North Korea's absolute ruler, is known to shun air travel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il leaves a hotel Monday in northeastern China.

Oil cleanup continues

Weather co-operating, but oil reportedly comes ashore

The winds and waves eased in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday, an encouraging development for crews trying to clean up a massive oil spill, yet an official with BP PLC said more than 20 boats were looking into an unconfirmed report of oil coming ashore in Louisiana.

People along the beaches and bayous waited anxiously to find out just how badly it might damage the delicate coast.

A U.S. Coast Guard official said forecasts showed the oil wasn't expected to come ashore for at least three more days and the calm weather was allowing cleanup crews to put out more containment equipment and repair some of the booms that were damaged in the rough weather. They also hope to again try to burn some of the oil on the water's surface.

"We do have the gift of time. It's a gift of a little bit of time. I'm not resting," U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said.

BP chief operating officer Doug Suttles said boats were dispatched to Chandeleur Island to look for the oil coming ashore, but so far haven't been able to find it. The Associated Press reported Thursday that some oil washed ashore at the mouth of the Mississippi River along the Louisiana coast.

So far only sheens have reached some coastal waters. The oil has lingered in the Gulf for two weeks, despite an uncapped seafloor gusher. The slow movement has given crews and volunteers time to lay boom in front of shorelines, an effort stymied by choppy seas over the weekend.

Rig operator BP PLC continued to try to cap one of the smaller of three leaks, which, if successful, could make it easier to install a containment system over the well.

BP's chief executive said a containment dome designed to cover the principal leak will be on the seabed tomorrow, and will be hooked up to a drill ship over the weekend.

CEO Tony Hayward stressed to reporters in Washington that the procedure had never been done before at a depth of a kilometre below the water's surface.

The plan is to cover the leak with a 98-ton concrete-and-metal box structure known as a cofferdam, and funnel the oil to the surface. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senator: Raise oil company's liability

- A Democratic senator says U.S. legislation to raise the liability limit for the Gulf Coast oil spill can apply retroactively. Sen. Robert Menendez is co-sponsoring a measure to raise to $10 billion the liability BP PLC has to pay for damages such as lost wages and economic suffering in the Gulf Coast spill. The current liability limit is $75 million, an amount Menendez called a "drop in the bucket."

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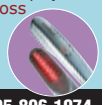

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Christie's is auctioning a collection of memorabilia related to Second World War-era from British prime minister Winston Churchill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red Shirts welcome talks with Thai PM

Thai anti-government protesters said yesterday they "welcome" a proposed compromise to end the violent political crisis that has paralyzed Bangkok for nearly two months, but asked for more details on the plan before wrapping up their demonstrations.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva proposed holding new elections Nov. 14 in exchange for the Red Shirt protesters dismantling the camp they have set up in the middle of the Thai capital. The standoff and related clashes have killed 27 people, wounded almost 1,000 and further polarized a country that has seen chaotic protests over the past five years.

The Red Shirt leaders met yesterday to discuss the five-point plan and "unanimously welcomed the reconciliation process," said Veera Musigapong, a protest leader. He did not say, however, when they would disperse from the streets, and other leaders called on the government to clarify some details, including the election date.

The protesters said they wanted clarification on the time frame for the election, asked for unspecified confidence-building gestures from the government and demanded the monarchy not be used as a weapon in the confrontation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demands for dissolution

- The protesters — a mixture of rural and urban poor, as well as those who opposed the 2006 coup and later court rulings seen by many as politically motivated — claim Abhisit came to power illegitimately in December 2008 with the help of army pressure on legislators. They have previously called for Parliament to be dissolved in 30 days or less, which would then prompt an election.

Rescuers expect more victims in Nashville floods

TENNESSEE Rescuers feared even more bodies would emerge as muddy flood waters ebb from torrential weekend rains that swamped Nashville, much of Tennessee and two neighbouring states, leaving at least 29 dead.

The Cumberland River that has submerged parts of Nashville's historic downtown was expected to start receding yesterday after being swollen by flash floods in creeks that feed into it.

Residents and authorities know they will find widespread property damage in inundated areas, but dread even more devastating discoveries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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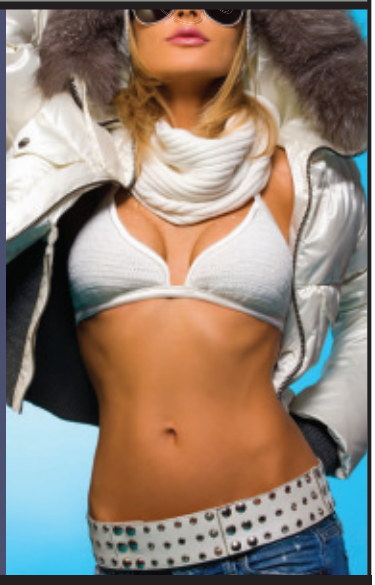

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Comment

Cut the pomp and circumstance

TheWestView

Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl,
But she hasn't got a lot to say.

– The Beatles

That little ditty nails, in a nutshell, Her Majesty Elizabeth R. II, unless you count her annual Christmas cliché dump, in which she expresses the view that "Phillip and I" are not amused by the suffering of the peasants somewhere in the world and someone should do something about it.

End of message.

So why does she continue to be featured prominently on our currency as the Queen of Canada? And why do we go through the ritual every five years of finding her a governor general, who we dutifully install as our head of state?

The whole nonsense should have been abolished in 1867 when we allegedly became a real country, or in 1982 when Pierre Trudeau smuggled the constitution past the corgis and brought it back home safe to Ottawa.

The last two governors general have qualified for the job by first apprenticing as CBC journalists. By that standard, I qualify as the next governor general of Canada, and as it's time to pick another one, I dutifully submit my name for consideration.

I can stuff a vice-regal uniform as splendidly as any former CBC journalist, which isn't saying much.

Seriously, I have nothing against Michaëlle Jean or the individual touted as her replacement, Canada's Man in Motion, Rick Hansen. True, Hansen doesn't come with as much baggage as Jean, who had to deny that she was a separatist and renounce her French citizenship. True, Hansen does live in British Columbia, which is almost as far from Ottawa as France, but the "British" part works in his favour.

Now, Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff is trying to stir the pot by recommending Jean's term be extended, contending that she's a more meaningful, meaningless figurehead than any replacement meaningless figurehead.

Attaboy Iggy, you sure know how to pick an issue. It's not as if we don't have any real problems.

Every five years, I hope — in vain, it turns out — we will seriously look at retiring the vestigial servitude that goes with a constitutional monarchy and emerge as the True North Strong And Free To Be Us. And every five years, it turns out we still don't have the jam to take our place among the real nations of the world.

Still, it's not too late. We've just had a shot of real national pride by staging the greatest Olympic Games the world has ever seen. It's time to build on that and give the Queen, her ridiculous family and her ceremonial hand puppets their walking papers.

God save us from the Queen.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: What celebrity would you like to have dinner with?

Howard Davis
Toronto

A: I want to have dinner with a dog: Patty, the life-saving dog.

Leanne Watson
Toronto

A: I want to have dinner with everybody ... If I had to choose, I would like to have dinner with my cousin, Bryan Adams. He's my fourth cousin on my grandfather's side.

Raymond Thomas
Toronto

A: An interesting character: Gordon Ramsay, because I'm a budding chef ... He's from the TV shows Hell's Kitchen and Restaurant Makeover.

Nakita Carr
Cole Harbour, N.S.

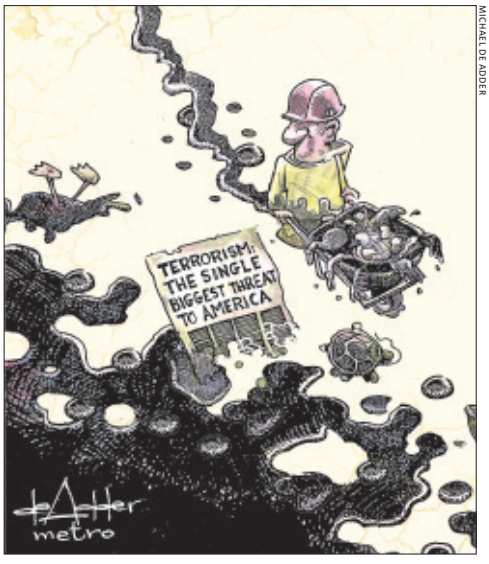
A: Johnny Depp. Just because he's so funny and he's always in really good movies. He seems like a good guy.

Shujaat Ansari
Ottawa

A: David Simon, creator of The Wire, because his shows are the most complex and interesting TV shows I've ever seen.

Haley Reap
Edmonton

A: Hands down the winner is David Bowie because I am a huge Bowie fan and because I would love to talk to him about art, art history, and theatre.



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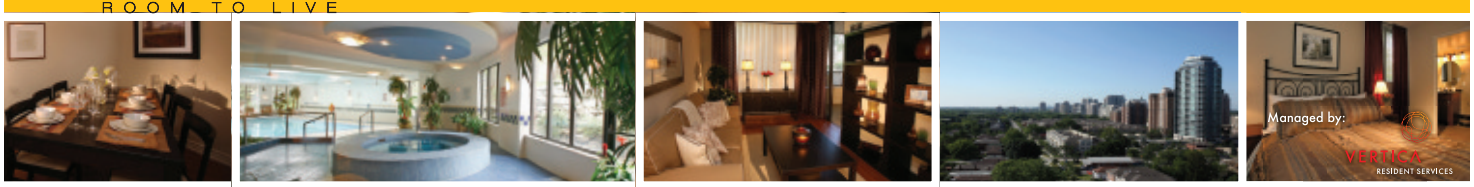

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Transcontinental buys Lipso Systems

Printing and publishing giant Transcontinental said yesterday that it has acquired Montreal-based Lipso Systems Inc., a developer and marketer of technology that facilitates communications and transactions between organizations and mobile users. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Upbeat, but concerned

Businesses not yet running at capacity

Canadian businesses are gaining confidence the economic recovery is real, but they remain concerned that they're not seeing the results in their individual operations.

A new survey by the Conference Board of Canada shows business confidence, rather than rising with the country's economic fortunes, has stalled over the past six months.

The latest survey shows the confidence index dropping slightly to 95.6 from 96 as businesses fret that they continue operating well below capacity due to weak demand.

Canada's economy grew by a surprisingly strong five per cent in the last three months of 2009, and is believed to have recorded the biggest quarterly gain in a decade during the first three months of this year — in the neighbourhood of six per cent annualized.

"Confidence will not resume its climb until more firms start operating close to capacity."
Conference Board of Canada survey

But the survey, conducted between March 8 and April 6, found just 21.5 per cent of respondents said their firm was operating near capacity, while 37.1 per cent said their firm was "substantially below" capacity.

"Confidence will not resume its climb until more firms start operating close to capacity." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beer Markets cool on Molson

(AP PHOTO/BILL SIKES)

Molson Coors' first-quarter profit climbed 38 per cent yesterday on a gain related to discontinued operations, but its adjusted results missed Wall Street's expectations.

Record profit for Emera

ENERGY Power and pipeline firm Emera Inc. reported a record first-quarter profit yesterday of $77.1 million, up from a year-ago $62.8 million on solid contributions from all of its businesses. The Halifax-based company said its earnings amounted to 68 cents per share, compared with 56 cents in the same period of 2009. Shares in the company were up five cents at $23.99 in midday trading. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PHARMA Drug developer and producer Angiotech Pharmaceuticals Inc. posted a first-quarter loss yesterday of $6.7 million US, reversing a year-ago profit of $12.4 million as overall revenues declined on lower royalty revenues and licence fees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bailout or no bailout, the Greek economic crisis could be very bad.

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Mandalay to buy inactive silver-gold mine

Mandalay Resources Corp. says it has an agreement to buy the inactive Cerro Bayo silver-gold mine in Chile from Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Loblaw profits rise

The country's largest grocery retailer says its first-quarter profit rose nearly 26 per cent last year, but Loblaw Co. says its operating income will be under more pressure later this year due to the cost of new information technology.

The Toronto-area company says it earned $137 million or 50 cents per share during the quarter. That's up from $109 million or 40 cents per share in the comparable period of 2009.

Loblaw revenue was up 3.1 per cent compared with the same time last year, rising to $6.9 billion from $6.7 billion — thanks largely to the acquisition of T&T Supermarket Inc., a chain that caters to ethnic Chinese customers.

The company's executive chairman, Galen Weston Jr., says Loblaw is on track with a renewal program that includes a major investment in information technology.

Loblaw has had years of difficulties in updating its supply chain and merchandise management as it moved to compete with Walmart by offering a broader range of non-grocery items including furniture, clothing and consumer electronics.

"Our major investment in information technology and supply chain will now start to ramp up. As previously announced, we expect these investments to negatively impact 2010 operating income," Weston said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Loblaw Cos. Ltd. chairman Galen Weston Jr. speaks at the company's annual general meeting last year in Toronto. Loblaw reported its first-quarter profit rose nearly 26 per cent from last year.

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Bright Q1 for Suncor

Profits up, but production forecasts down

Oilsands giant Suncor Energy Inc. reported better-than-expected first-quarter profits yesterday, but trimmed back its production forecast for 2010 because of fires at two of its upgraders.

"While we were slower out of the gate than we'd hoped for this year due to upsets at our oilsands operations, the balance of the business performed well and oilsands production is firmly back on track," chief executive Rick George said ahead of the company's annual meeting.

Canada's largest energy company earned $716 million, or 46 cents per share, for the first three months of the year. The Calgary-based firm booked a net loss of $189 million or 20 cents a share for the first quarter of 2009. Operating earnings, which strip out the effects of one-time items, were $287 million, or 18 cents per share, compared to $380 million, or 41 cents per share, a year ago.

Suncor CEO Rick George

Analysts were on average expecting operating earnings of 14 cents per share, according to estimates compiled by Thomson Reuters.

"The variance from our estimates was attributed to a combination of higher-than-expected production volumes, lower-than-expected cash operating costs in the oilsands and better-than-expected downstream earnings," wrote UBS Investment Research analyst Matt Donohue in a research note yesterday.

Fires broke out at two of Suncor's upgraders — once in December and then again in February. After downtime for repairs, the facilities have since been brought back online.

"With both upgraders back to full production, we achieved an average oilsands production of approximately 333,000 barrels per day in April — our strongest month on record," George said.

However, year-to-date oilsands production at the end of April averaged about 234,000 barrels per day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More details on Suncor Energy

- As a result of the upgrader shutdowns, Suncor has revised its production outlook for 2010 to 280,000 barrels per day, down from 300,000 barrels per day.
- But its total oil and natural gas production during Q1 2010 averaged 564,6000 barrels of oil equivalent output per day, compared to 314,500 daily barrels during Q1 2009.
- According to Suncor, the increased production was the result of its union with former Crown corporation Petro-Canada last August, which created Canada's largest energy company.

Nissan to recall nearly 135K cars

AUTOS Nissan Motor Co. said yesterday it will recall nearly 135,000 Infiniti G35 sedans and coupes to address a problem that could lead to the air bag not deploying in a crash.

Nissan said the recall involves G35 Coupes from the 2005 to 2007 model years and G35 Sedans from the 2005 to 2006 model year.

The automaker says the air bag unit's wire harness under the front passenger seat could wear down and interrupt the air bag's signal.

In a crash, the air bag may not deploy and could increase the risk of an injury.

Nissan spokesman Colin Price said there have been no injuries reported.

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Nissan had not yet provided the agency with a plan to fix the vehicles.

Price said Nissan would provide NHTSA with information on the repair in May and begin notifying owners of the recall in June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Turbulence for WestJet

WestJet Airlines Ltd. said yesterday its first-quarter net income dropped 63 per cent from a year ago — in part because of the sudden departure of its chief executive officer.

63 WestJet saw its net income drop by 63 per cent in the first quarter, as compared to last year.

The Calgary-based carrier earned $13.8 million, or 10 cents per share, compared with $37.4 million, or 29 cents per share, in the first quarter of 2009.

During the quarter, WestJet booked a $3.7-million expense related to the resignation of Sean Durfy, who announced in March he was leaving to spend more time with his family.

Durfy is expected to stay on in an advisory role until September.

The new boss, industry veteran Gregg Saretsky, has been in his role for just more than one month.

In a statement, Saretsky said WestJet is happy it eked out a profit "especially in light of the challenging economic environment and rising energy costs."

Stripped of one-time items, WestJet's net income was $17.5 million, or 12 cents per share, compared with $35.2 million, or 29 cents per share in the first quarter of 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Credit **Priceless profits**

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

MasterCard Inc. said yesterday its first-quarter profit rose 24 per cent, with more people reaching for the plastic as the economy rebounds.

Toronto mining firm to buy $650M in shares

DEAL Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd. says it has reached a definitive agreement to acquire all the shares of Comaplex Minerals Corp. it doesn't already own for about $650 million.

The agreement, which was announced in principle last month, will see each shareholder of Comaplex other than Agnico-Eagle receive 0.1576 of an Agnico-Eagle share per Comaplex share.

Also, each Comaplex shareholder other than Agnico-Eagle and Perfora Investments S.a.r.l. will receive one common share of a new subsidiary per Comaplex share — the equivalent of $10.32 per Comaplex share.

Agnico Eagle owns 12.3 per cent of Comaplex and Perfora about 17.3 per cent.

Since Perfora has agreed to sell its shares to Agnico-Eagle, the Toronto miner is paying about $648 million for the 87.7 per cent of Comaplex it doesn't directly own.

This represents a 34 per cent premium to the 20-day volume-weighted average price of Comaplex shares on the TSX at March 31.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Watching the game, having a Bud

Anheuser-Busch's flagship brand Bud Light will be the official beer sponsor of the National Football League, edging out rival MillerCoors, which said yesterday it wouldn't renew its deal. Anheuser-Busch's six-year deal, which begins in the 2011 season, is worth more than $1 billion US, a person close to the league said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Say hola to 'Los Suns'

The Phoenix Suns will wear "Los Suns" on their jerseys tonight for Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinals. Owner Robert Sarver, left, says it's "to honour our Latino community and the diversity of our league, the state of Arizona, and our nation." The decision to wear the jerseys on the Cinco de Mayo holiday stems from a law passed by the Arizona legislature and signed by Gov. Jan Brewer that has drawn widespread criticism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Bautista's homer leads Jays to win

MLB RESULTS

Toronto 8 Cleveland 5

MLB Jose Bautista homered for the second straight game and the Toronto Blue Jays benefited from nine walks in an 8-5 win over the Cleveland Indians last night.

Bautista's two-run homer in the fourth was his sixth of the season and continued Toronto's power surge. The Blue Jays have homered 14 times in winning five of their last six games. The damage could have been worse yesterday, but Toronto stranded 13 runners. Jays starter Ricky Romero won despite not having his best stuff. Romero (3-1) struck out nine, but gave up a season-high five runs in six innings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pens stifle Habs to take lead

(Pittsburgh leads 2-1)

Penguins 2 Canadiens 0

Evgeni Malkin scored on a power play to break a scoreless draw early in the third period and Marc-Andre Fleury made 18 saves to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins to a mostly uneventful 2-0 victory over the Montreal Canadiens in the NHL playoffs last night.

Pascal Dupuis added a late empty-net goal for the Penguins, who showed they can play defensive hockey as well as Montreal.

The Pens lead the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal 2-1 with Game 4 set for tomorrow night at the Bell Centre.

Malkin, who had been quiet in the first two games in Pittsburgh, ended a four-game scoring drought to help the Penguins wrest back the home-ice advantage they had given up with a 3-1 loss at home Sunday afternoon.

It wasn't pretty hockey as neither team opened up its attack, and the Penguins allowed few good chances on Fleury, while Jaroslav Halak was strong in a losing effort as Pittsburgh outshot Montreal 25-18.

The chants of "Ha-Lak, Ha-Lak!" went up from the crowd of 21,273 as soon as the Canadiens took to the ice, but unlike the first two games in Pittsburgh, the Canadiens goaltender faced only three first-period shots as the Penguins gave Montreal a taste of its own medicine by hanging back, blocking shots and protecting Fleury.

Sidney Crosby was held without a point for a second straight game despite an energetic performance and didn't let his frustration show as he did in Game 2 when he smashed a stick on Halak's goalpost.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pittsburgh's Chris Kunitz, left, and Sidney Crosby celebrate after the Penguins scored the first goal on Montreal's Jaroslav Halak during the third period of last night's Game 3 in Montreal.

Markov out

- Montreal coach Jacques Martin said top defenceman Andrei Markov, who left Game 1 in Pittsburgh with an apparent knee injury, is out "indefinitely." Reports yesterday said Markov has a torn anterior cruciate ligament and will likely miss the rest of the post-season.

SCOREBOARD

NHL PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Pittsburgh 2 Montreal 0 (Pittsburgh leads series 2-1)
San Jose 4 Detroit 3 (OT) (San Jose leads series 3-0)

TODAY'S GAMES

Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 9:30 p.m.

NBA PLAYOFFS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando 114 Atlanta 71 (Orlando leads series 1-0)
Utah at L.A. Lakers

TODAY'S GAMES

San Antonio at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

BASEBALL

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS

Toronto 8 Cleveland 5
Boston 5 L.A. Angels 1
N.Y. Yankees 4 Baltimore 1
Detroit at Minnesota
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox
Texas at Oakland
Tampa Bay at Seattle

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS

N.Y. Mets 5 Cincinnati 4
Philadelphia 2 St. Louis 1 (10 ings)
Pittsburgh 3 Chicago Cubs 2
Washington 6 Atlanta 3
San Francisco at Florida
Arizona at Houston
Colorado at San Diego
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers

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Magic to host 2012 all-star game

The NBA announced yesterday that the 2012 all-star game will be played in Orlando at the Magic's new arena, which opens next season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia Flyers' goaltender Brian Boucher, shown here before a home game against New Jersey during the first round of the NHL playoffs, will look to help his club bounce back in it series against Boston. The Bruins are up 2-0 heading into tonight's Game 3.

All eyes on Boucher

NHL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Boston at Philadelphia

VS

Ten years after the Flyers counted on Brian Boucher to help bail them out of an 0-2 playoff hole, they're needing the goalie to deliver again.

Boucher was in the net the last time — and one of only two times in team history — Philadelphia rallied from an 0-2 hole to win a round. He'll get the start against Boston in Game 3 tonight with the Flyers facing the same deficit.

The Flyers won four straight games against Pittsburgh in the 2000 Eastern Conference semifinals, including the classic five-overtime Game 4. In 2000, the Flyers dropped the first two at home. This year, they lost two in Boston.

"We were pretty down going to Pittsburgh, feeling pretty bad about ourselves," Boucher said. "We had not played well the first two games. We're at home here. That's one of the advantages. To be honest, we could probably play a bit better."

The Flyers were beaten, but not terribly outplayed, in their first two losses to the Bruins. The Flyers hope a return to home ice and a rowdy arena for Game 3 tonight can help get them back in the series.

But it will take more than a hostile crowd and a dose of pre-game nostalgia to spark the Flyers.

"It's not that we've played bad, but just play with more desperation than we've shown the last two games," forward Danny Briere said. "We need a little bit more of the way we played in the first round against Jersey, kind of take their will away. I think we can do a better job of that."

Flyers coach Peter Laviolette gave the team the day off to rest. The Bruins held an optional practice in Massachusetts and most of the top players took the day off.

"They held serve, now it's our turn," Laviolette said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biting incident over and done with?

- Both teams were ready to move on from a supposed biting incident in Game 2. Flyers forward Daniel Carcillo accused Bruins forward Marc Savard of biting his finger. Savard called it a "non-issue" yesterday. "It's the last game, it's over and, hopefully, I get matched up against his line," Carcillo said.

Former Tigers broadcaster dies

BASEBALL The Detroit Tigers say longtime broadcaster Ernie Harwell has died. He was 92.

Harwell called Tigers games for more than four decades and was one of Michigan's most beloved sports figures. Spokesman Brian Britten said yesterday that the team learned about Harwell's death from his agent.

Ernie Harwell

Harwell announced in September that he had been diagnosed with inoperable cancer of the bile duct. The Detroit Free Press said Harwell died yesterday at his home in Novi, Mich.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jordan	4.9 ¢	Italy	2.9 ¢
Kenya from	9.9 ¢	Russia from	2.9 ¢
Kuwait	6.9 ¢	Saudi Arabia from	9.9 ¢
Lebanon	9.9 ¢	South Korea	2.9 ¢
Libya	24.9 ¢	Sri Lanka	9.9 ¢
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Oman	12.9 ¢	U.A.E.	16.9 ¢

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Lesnar set for July return

UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar will return from a year-long absence to meet interim champ Shane Carwin July 3 at UFC 116. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Struggling Tiger still searching for game

Question is: Will he make cut at Players tourney?

The 18th hole on the TPC Sawgrass is not nearly as daunting without wind, which was the case on a muggy morning yesterday when Tiger Woods set up over the tee shot with a three-wood in hand.

The ball never had a chance to stay dry.

It started down the left side with a severe hook and splashed down some 20 yards to the left of the water's edge. With a mild curse under his breath, Woods asked his caddie for another ball.

It was his fifth ball in the water during nine holes of practice at The Players Championship.

He lost two in the water on the front nine the day before.

There have been flashes of brilliance, as always, but far more shots that hardly resemble golf from the world's best player.

"It's just a matter of ... getting my mind where it needs to be," Woods said. "And, certainly, I've made a lot of adjustments in my life, and I've gone through a lot — a lot.

"Just trying to make sure I get everything organized so I can play."

Woods is capable of making some form of history at just about any golf tournament, and The Players Championship is no exception. Only now, the question is whether Woods will miss the cut in consecutive tournaments for the first time in his career.

He didn't just miss the cut last week at Quail Hollow, he missed it by a mile. With a 79 in the second round — his second-highest score in his career — Woods posted his highest 36-hole total (153) in 14 years on the PGA Tour.

Two days of practice this week did little to change the notion that his game — not to mention his head — is not in a good spot.

After three days of rampant speculation that he would ditch his swing coach, Woods said nothing has changed with Hank Haney, who was not at Sawgrass. Haney rarely goes to tournaments outside the majors.

"I'm still working with him, yeah," Woods said.

Phil Mickelson has a chance for the first time in his career to rise to No. 1 in the world if he wins The Players Championship (which he did in 2007) and Woods finishes out of the top five. Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., and Calgary's Stephen Ames are the two Canadians in the field. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods chips from the rough yesterday on the 14th hole during a practice round for The Players Championship golf tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

"It's just a matter of ... getting my mind where it needs to be." Tiger Woods

MRI shows Mauer has no structural damage to foot

BASEBALL The Minnesota Twins say an MRI exam on star catcher Joe Mauer's injured left heel revealed no structural damage to his foot.

Mauer had the examination yesterday and was out of the lineup against Detroit for the fourth straight game.

Manager Ron Gardenhire says the test revealed a deep soft tissue bruise.

The reigning AL MVP remains day-to-day.

Wilson Ramos started at catcher again in place of Mauer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Former Montreal Impact coach to take over Canada's under-20s

The Canadian Soccer Association named Valerio Gazzola as Canada's new national men's under-20 head coach yesterday. Gazzola, a former McGill University player and one-time coach of the Montreal Impact, takes over for Tony Fonseca, who was appointed assistant coach to the national team and head coach of the men's under-23s. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Packing a punch on the pitch

Boxing's loss is soccer's gain as striker Wayne Rooney targets foes at World Cup

To play against Wayne Rooney in the World Cup, just imagine going 90 minutes with a bigger version of Manny Pacquiao.

The 24-year-old England striker with the cruiserweight frame comes from a family of amateur boxers and has plenty of ring experience himself. Only now he scores goals with his head and feet rather than taking out opponents with his fists.

In June, he will be targeting the United States when the World Cup kicks off, and U.S. defenders such as Oguchi Onyewu and Jay DeMerit will come off the field feeling as if they've gone 12 rounds with a relentless fighter. Rooney charges tirelessly around the field to get the ball or tackle opponents no matter the score.

"You know I just hate losing," Rooney says. "Sometimes you're tired, but you don't want to lose. That gives you extra determination to get the next ball or work hard, I think it goes up.

From Croxteth, a grimy area of Liverpool known for its gang violence, Rooney has used his soccer skills to shake off his poor education and become a wealthy man.

With a strong local accent and nervous mannerisms, he has become a working-class hero, especially after marrying childhood sweetheart Coleen McLoughlin, who has since become a celebrity in her own right in the fashion industry.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wayne Rooney, the 24-year-old England striker with the cruiserweight frame, comes from a family of amateur boxers and has plenty of ring experience himself. Only now he scores goals with his head and feet rather than taking out opponents with his fists.

How different it may have been if Rooney had stuck to boxing.

"I used to do boxing and football," said Rooney, who followed his father, Wayne Sr., to his uncle's local gym.

"I was training every night with one of them and when I got to about 15, Everton said I had to stop boxing if I wanted to carry on playing football. I had a good chance of making the first team, so I stopped."

Rooney barged his way into the Premier League spotlight as a raw 16-year-old with a spectacular debut goal.

That shot for his first club, Everton, was an announcement that here at last was the talented striker England had been looking for, someone who could turn a so-so team into one capable of winning the World Cup. After moving to Manchester United at age 18, he marked his first appearance in the Champions League with three goals.

This season, Rooney has scored 34 goals for United and shown his versatility, scoring with both feet and his head. Now he has his sights set on facing the U.S. in the two teams' first group game in Rustenburg on June 12.

With his ability to shrug off defenders using his muscular build, launch powerful long-range shots, expertly find teammates with 40-metre passes and chase back to win the ball from opponents, Rooney appears to be a team all on his own.

The downside is his fragile temperament.

Virtually since his first appearances, Rooney has shown he has a short temper, haranguing opponents and referees with expletives, launching into red-faced rage and petulantly fouling players he feels have offended him.

In the past two seasons, that side of him has calmed down, possibly because he has settled down with a wife and baby son. But the negative side of England's top striker looks likely to erupt at any time.

Rio Ferdinand, who is set to be England's World Cup captain, has seen Rooney improve during their time together at Manchester United. Ferdinand believes the striker has widened his range of skills to become one of the best goal scorers in the game.

"I think this season he's realized, especially in the Manchester United squad with Cristiano Ronaldo not there and Tevez not there, there's a lot of goals gone from the team," Ferdinand said. "This season he's taken on that responsibility and said 'I'm going to be the man to score the goals' and he's done that fantastically." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron's elbow injury still a mystery

NBA LeBron James and his scrutinized right elbow remained out of sight yesterday, deepening the mystery about his perplexing injury.

Hours after being embarrassed on their home floor by the Boston Celtics in Game 2, the Cleveland Cavaliers were summoned to their practice facility by coach Mike Brown to watch tape of the 104-86 setback that evened the Eastern Conference semifinal at 1-1.

LeBron James

"I had a lot to say to the guys about our performance," said Brown. "I thought we need to develop a sense of urgency in this series and throughout our run. I thought why not have last night be a good start to that."

After the team's film session broke up, James, who will have a third MRI in less than 10 days on his injured elbow later this week, was not seen when the Cleveland Clinic Courts were opened to the media.

The team said James was at the facility receiving treatment on his elbow, but there was no visual proof.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Stamkos ready to assume leadership role

HOCKEY Steven Stamkos has a score to settle at the IIHF World Hockey Championship.

The talented centre was having a dream run at last year's event until it was interrupted by a hot Russian goalie who stunned Canada and stole the gold medal. Stamkos still has clear memories of the disappointment that followed the final game, where Russia edged Canada 2-1 despite being outshot 38-17.

"I thought we deserved to win," he said in a recent interview. "(Ilya) Bryzgalov played a hell of a game, I think we outshot them two to one. We just couldn't get anything by him."

He's in search of a happier ending this time around in Germany.

Stamkos and goaltender Chris Mason are the only Canadian players back at the event for a second straight year. A new tournament has brought on different expectations for the 20-year-old Stamkos, who tied Sidney Crosby for the NHL's goal-scoring lead this season with 51.

Setting the tone

- Forward Corey Perry had two goals and an assist to power Canada to a 4-1 win over Germany in an exhibition warm-up for the 2010 IIHF World Championship, which is set to begin for the Canadians Saturday. Linemates Steven Stamkos and Rene Bourque also scored for Canada yesterday, while Chris Mason earned the win in net.

A year ago, he was surprised to even receive an invitation to the world championship. Now the Canadian brass has essentially identified him as the team's top forward.

"Obviously, I had a good year this year and I proved last year at the world championships that I can be counted on offensively," he said. "That's the kind of pressure that I want. I definitely am going to be going over there trying to produce as much offence as I can and help this team win."

Steven Stamkos

Once his season ended with the Tampa Bay Lightning April 11, Stamkos took about a week off to relax and play some golf. Since then, he's been skating each day in Florida with Lightning teammate Steve Downie, who is also heading to the world championship.

It's taken some work to stay sharp and get ready for the event.

"It's amazing what a week off can do to your game," said Stamkos. "You don't think it's too long, but you get back on the ice and you definitely notice a substantial difference."

The experience at last year's world championship played a big part in the breakout season Stamkos just finished. He gained a lot of confidence while playing alongside Martin St. Louis and Shane Doan in Switzerland, finishing among the tournament leaders with seven goals and 11 points in nine games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

iPad kit for your car
Accessories firm Scosche has developed a double-din solution called the iKit for installing the new iPad where your stereo used to go in your car. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Volt steps up

General Motors took its Chevrolet Volt to another level at the Beijing auto show by showcasing a crossover utility vehicle based on the upcoming range-extended electric vehicle.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

The 2010 Mazda Tribute has some nimble moves and is a good fit for an urban environment.

Tribute one for ages

Mazda SUV's winning formula has stood test of time

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

2010 Mazda Tribute

Type: Compact SUV
Price: From $23,450
Engine: from 2.5L 4-cylinder
HP: 171
Fuel economy: 10.1/7.2L/100 km (city/highway)

Highlights

- Plenty of safety systems
- Good gas mileage

When it comes to the old line, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," there are several auto manufacturers who have one or two offerings that have stood the test of time.

The Ford Escape and the Mazda Tribute — a pair of compact SUVs — are two prime examples. However, they continue to sell like hotcakes, despite the aging bones hiding underneath the botox'd sheet metal.

Of the two, the Tribute is the one aimed at a more urban environment. Given Mazda's penchant for creating solid driving machines, it's also the more satisfying one to pilot.

The 2010 version we had on test was the entry-level GX, powered by the company's new 171-hp 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine, mated to an optional six-speed automatic transmission.

While it is possible to get all-wheel drive with the base engine, ours sent power only to the fronts. But winter tires and a bunch of safety systems, like traction and stability control, meant there was little that could get the Tribute really stuck.

The upside of driving a four-banger is good gas mileage, and the Mazda doesn't disappoint, with ratings of 10.1/7.2 L/100 km (city/highway).

Compared to the firmly tuned CX-7 crossover that's roughly the same size and uses the same four-cylinder engine, the Tribute is softer and more comfortable on the highway, but still maintains some nimble moves. It does feel quicker, though, because it has significantly less weight to haul around.

It's inside the cabin where the Tribute falls down compared to its rivals. While Mazda has applied its own touches — like the glossy piano-black inserts on the centre console — on a design largely created by Ford, the results are underwhelming.

There's only so much you can do when you're restricted by a body that hasn't changed substantially in 10 years. Room in the second row is pretty good, and the rear seats do fold completely flat after popping up the rear seat cushions first. Cargo room is competitive, but don't expect sheets of drywall to fit properly thanks to the Tribute's narrow width.

Starting at nearly $23,450, the Tribute's very close to the technically superior offerings from Honda and Hyundai.

And if you opt for the 240-hp V6, expect to be shelling out nearly $28,000.

Going on a road trip with your best friend

TRAVEL Spring and summer are great times to go on road trips with the entire family — including Fido and Felix. Here are a few travel Dos (and one travel Don't) to prepare for your pet's big adventure.

- Do visit your veterinarian before you leave to ensure your pet is travel-ready. Request an updated health certificate with information on vaccinations, and if necessary re-stock on your pet's medication.
- Do ask your veterinarian what to include in your pet's first aid kit (ointments, bandages, etc).
- Do update your pet's tags with your cell phone number, or have Fido and Felix microchipped. Bring a current photo and description of your loved one; in case they get lost, you won't be scrambling.
- Do reserve ahead at a pet-friendly hotel chain. Ensure they know to expect your pet, and confirm the details of your reservation before you leave.
- Do schedule regular breaks during your road trip to take Fido and Felix on regular walks. It's just as important for dogs, cats and other travelling companions to stretch their legs as it is for humans. Remember the pooper scoopers.
- Do bring water for the long road trip ahead to keep your furry friends hydrated.
- Do bring the comforts of home for your pet, such as their bed, favourite toy(s), regular food and treats.
- Do plan activities with your pet so they don't stay alone in the hotel room. Many Canadian hotels provide suggestions on local area pet-friendly attractions, nearby off-leash dog parks, and other fun things to keep Fido and Felix, as well as the whole family, entertained.
- Don't leave your furry friends in the car. In warm or hot weather, even if the windows are left slightly open the car can quickly become an inferno and give your pet heat stroke. Always have someone stay with your pet, or, take them with you.

NEWS CANADA

Going on a road trip with Fido can be fun if you follow a few simple tips to keep your canine friend in good cheer.

The new Audi A8 L.

Audi A8 L makes space for more comfort

NEW MODEL Audi has stretched the bounds of luxury sedan comfort even further in the new long wheel base version of its flagship A8 sedan, which incorporates an additional 130 mm of wheelbase and body length, the latter concentrated at the rear to provide even more exceptional passenger accommodation.

The new Audi A8 L will also be further refined by an extensively reworked version of the 12-cylinder W12 gasoline engine offering further improved power and efficiency.

The 130 mm increase takes the length of the new A8 L to 5,267 millimeters, and the wheelbase has grown by the same amount to 3,122mm.

The A8 L W12 can cruise to 100 km/h in just 4.9 seconds, and continue to a seemingly effortless governed top speed of 155 mph.

And with the help of FSI technology, fuel economy belies these figures, with up to 23.5 mpg achievable according to the combined cycle test — a 12 per cent improvement over the outgoing model which results in CO2 output of 278g/km.

FROM CARGUIDE

Ford expands Recycle Your Ride

Ford has expanded its Recycle Your Ride program. The company has announced that, as of May 1 consumers turning in model-year 2003 or older vehicles for retirement will get up to $3,000 towards the purchase of a new 2010 Ford or Lincoln vehicle. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Car at your voice command

As I walk up to the hotel where I am to meet up with Paul Aldighieri, I have no clue what to expect.

Aldighieri is doing some media interviews, before he is to deliver the keynote address at the Canadian Universities Technology Conference, hosted by Toronto's Ryerson University.

Aldighieri is a professor in Human Factors, as well as an ergonomics engineer, and is currently a member of Ford's Global Human Machine Interface (HMI) team.

With those credentials, I'm picturing maybe a cross between Iron Man and my Grade 10 math teacher, Mr. Runstettler.

But Aldighieri, a Windsor native and University of Waterloo grad, is very much his own man, an articulate, youngish, urbane guy, wearing a black T-shirt and blue jeans.

The theme of the conference is how people interact with technology — something the HMI team has been examining for the last four years, as it developed MyFord and MyLincoln, the automaker's new way of connecting the driver to all the vehicle's information and entertainment features.

"In 2006, Derek Kuzak (VP, Global Product Design), was looking at what was coming, this onslaught of information possibilities. He determined that we had to do something differently, to help people manage information in a car. He told us to come up with 'a mouse.' What the mouse did for the computing industry, that's what he wanted for the car — that was the assignment."

The HMI team then formed, the first cross-functional team to work on this aspect of the vehicle.

The voice-command driven system MyFord debuted on the 2011 Ford Edge.

It consisted of Aldighieri (Human Factors), a product designer, an ergonomics engineer, and an electronics engineers. MyLincoln debuted on the 2011 Lincoln MKX, while MyFord debuted on the 2011 Ford Edge and Focus. Basically, they do away with traditional joysticks and rotary dials, and use five-way controllers on the steering wheel, LED touch screens, and voice commands.

"Part of my speech will touch on Moore's law, which essentially states that there will always be more technology tomorrow than there is today," says Aldighieri.

"There will always be more technology wanting to get into the car… But human capability isn't really changing too much; we're stuck with our neurons … So the job of the human-machine interface is to create strategies to bring those technologies under the (human capability) line. And in a car it's even more critical, as there is also this big task called 'driving.'"

But the saving grace of technology, according to Paul, is that technology also gives you the tools to manage those other technologies. The prime one for the vehicle moving forward will be voice command. How else, asks Aldighieri, could you deal with thousands of songs on your music player and hundreds of numbers in your phone contact list?

But do you feel weird talking to your car? I do. Paul says many others do too. So Ford's voice command systems will be available in elevated stages, so you can take as much as you're cool with.

But in the long run, I say you better get over it. Voice command, along with touch screens, is how it's going to be.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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"What no competitor matches is this compact's particular fusion of engineering, style, value and reputation for reliability…" Consumer Guide – Sept. 2009

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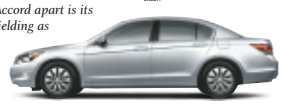
"…what so reliably sets the Accord apart is its platform – as solid and unyielding as a shotgun barrel." Car and Driver/10Best – Jan. 2010



Accord LX Sedan model CP2E3AE

PROVEN: Accord has won more Car and Driver 10Best awards than any other vehicle.²

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"Residual Value Award - Best Compact Utility" Automotive Lease Guide – Feb. 2010

CR-V LX 2WD model RE3H3AEY

PROVEN: CR-V value starts high, and stays there.³

#Limited time lease offers based on new 2010 Honda models. Lease examples based on new 2010 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1E2AEX / 2010 Accord LX Sedan, model CP2E3AE / 2010 Odyssey NHL SE, model RL3H5AE / 2010 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3AEY available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. 0.9% / 2.9% / 1.9% / 3.9% lease APR for 48 / 48 / 48 / 48 months. Monthly payment (includes $0.07 / $0.07 / $0.07 / $0.08 air conditioning tax) is $148.07 / $247.63 / $387.63 / $268.08. $0 / $0 / $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,433.70 / $19,809.10 / $29,322.61 / $21,051.15. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration (if applicable) are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP is $17,420 (includes $1,430 freight and PDI, and environmental and OMVIC fees) financed at 0.9% APR equals $297.02 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $401.43 for a total obligation of $17,821.43. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration (if applicable) are extra. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. #/‡/¹/²/³ offers valid from May 2nd, 2010 through May 31st, 2010 at Centre Honda. Offers valid only for Ontario residents at Centre Honda. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Centre Honda for full details. *As reported by Canadian manufacturers for calendar year 2009. ¹,²As reported by Car and Driver, Jan. 2010. ³As reported by Automotive Lease guide, Feb. 2010. NHL and the NHL Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. ©NHL 2010. All rights reserved.

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Fashion, cars don't always mix

RYAN BORROFF
Metro World News

Car design is a highly complicated discipline that explains why designers from other industries create so few cars.

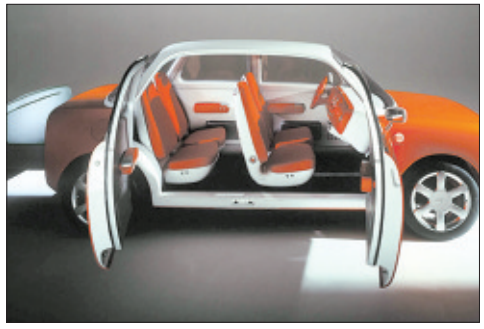
Yet car companies have courted fashion or product designers for years, usually to add some pep to individual models — known as a special edition — or to create a one-off concept car to attract press and consumer interest to their brand.

Historically, the results have been mixed. A product or fashion designer may have a decent go at creating a "trendy" design but often this has been limited to a simple branding exercise with the fashion label's logo sewn into the seats and stamped on the back.

In the 1970s car companies including Ford, GM and American Motors offered limited edition cars with special edition trim by fashion houses from Gucci to Valentino, and it has continued since, with models including the Renault Twingo Kenzo through to the recent Lamborghini Murcielago Versace edition.

None has exactly set the world alight, though other designers have had a more radical influence, bringing a broader, less car-oriented approach to vehicle design.

In 1999 acclaimed product designer Marc Newson was given a whole car to pen. The press, despite being actually quite good, mauled his 021C concept for Ford.



Product designer Marc Newson's Ford 021C concept was derided at the time as naïve and impractical.

Original Mini

• Though employed as a car designer, Alec Issigonis was actually a trained draftsman and engineer. His design for the original BMC Mini was groundbreaking. Created to be as small as possible yet still able to seat four people with luggage and using minimal fuel. Issigonis mounted the engine sideways. Today almost all small cars are made this way.

Newson tried to create a car that would appeal to younger drivers by taking a furniture design approach and applying it to the car.

The car comprised simple shapes and clean surfaces with no superfluous decoration. Newson said it was like designing 500 products at once, and some of the press said it looked like he had tried to. They thought it toy-like, even childish. Today design geeks still love it.

In 2007, in a more successful venture, Sebastian Conran added a new grille, lights, wheel covers, seats, dash and exterior colour to a special edition of Nissan's Cube. With not a single Conran badge in sight, Nissan made just 5,000 of them and they sold out quickly in Japan.

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Accord LX Sedan
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PROVEN: CR-V value starts high, and stays there.

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Lexus GX 460 back on sale

Lexus Canada has announced that an update for the 2010 GX 460 vehicle stability control system is now available at Lexus dealers across Canada, and that the model is back on sale. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Car party in Yorkville

Gumball Rally 3000 brings together celebs, exotic autos

David Hasselhoff, left, and Michael Madsen are among the celebrities attending the Gumball 3000 rally in Yorkville tomorrow.

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

Tomorrow evening, Yorkville — no stranger to luxury cars — will be transformed into a pedestrian-only zone, where an impressive selection of the greatest marvels in the auto to world will be displayed for one an all to gawk at.

From Ferraris and Lamborghinis, to Aston Martins, Bugatti Veyrons and Bentleys, a staggering 120 vintage, customized and luxury cars will be displayed along Yorkville Avenue, and Cumberland and Bellair Streets all night long.

This "pit stop" in Toronto is just one facet of a week-long international event, named the Gumball 3000 Rally — in essence, an around-the-world party for the rich and famous, now in its 12th year.

It all began in 1999, when Gumball's founder, a young Englishman named Maximillion Cooper, a onetime racing driver, decided to bring together 50 affluent friends from the music, film, fashion and sports industries for a one-of-a-kind party: driving their own dazzling cars on a week-long, 3000-mile route across Europe, while enjoying parties at each pit stop in locales like Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

"It was a way to get friends together to have a fun seven-day "road-trip" adventure," he says.

Since then, the event has grown to include 250 participants. This year's rally kicked off in London, England last Saturday and ends in Times Square in New York on Friday.

"When the drivers reached Stockholm, they were all be flown, along with their cars to Bangor, Maine, to continue on the route to Boston, Quebec City, Toronto and finally New York," explains Cooper. "The Gumball is a gathering of artists, musicians and Hollywood stars, travelling the world for a week, with music concerts, car displays and skateboard ramp demonstrations throughout the adventure," says Cooper. "It brings together people of all nationalities for fun."

Today, the event attracts celebrity participants from actor Adrien Brody to Snoop Dog, as well as Russian billionaires, Sheiks and Middle Eastern Princes.

Though you may not know the princes by face, some of the familiar faces you might catch a glimpse of tomorrow include David Hasselhoff, Michael Madsen, singer Eve, supermodel Jodie Kidd and skateboarding legend Tony Hawk.

This free, public event begins at 7 p.m. and runs until midnight. For more info, go to bloor-yorkville.com.

"The Gumball is a gathering of artists, musicians and Hollywood stars, travelling the world for a week, with music concerts, car displays and skateboard ramp demonstrations."
Maximillion Cooper

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Most exciting cars of spring 2010

NADAguides.com, a U.S. provider of vehicle pricing and information, has announced its picks for the most exciting cars for spring 2010.

They are:

2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee:

With numerous performance options and interior refinements, the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee should help Chrysler gain market share in the SUV arena. Grand Cherokee loyalists will have their choice between the 3.6-litre Pentastar V6 that delivers 280 hp and 260 lb/f. of torque or the 5.7-litre Hemi V8 engine that produces 360 hp and 390 lb.-ft. of torque.

2011 Nissan Juke:

Nissan's newest sport crossover, the Juke, received its influence from its popular Rogue sibling and encompasses a highly distinctive design including a robust stance, high waistline, complex curves, coupe-like profile and aggressive wheels and tires.

The bold interior design features a wide center console that takes its inspiration from a motorcycle fuel tank of all things and deserves a tip of the hat for Nissan's design group.

2011 Ford Mustang:

The all-new Ford Mustang is highlighted by significant powertrain enhancements with a class-leading 305 hp, 3.7-litre V6 model. Boasting impressive horsepower figures is one thing, but backing it up with fuel efficiency is another. The V6 gets 19 city and (US) 31 highway mpg.

Its 5.0-liter V8 sibling is something to brag about, producing 412 hp while still maintaining (US) 26 mpg on the highway, a first for the Mustang.

On a long drive, the six-cylinder is a spirited stallion and provides all the power that most drivers would want, while the V8 is for thrill seekers wanting bursts of wheel-chirping acceleration.

2011 Hyundai Equus:

Hyundai's latest addition to the luxury vehicle market is now posing even stronger competition for the likes of Mercedes and Lexus.

The 2011 Ford Mustang.

The most expensive Hyundai vehicle will start in the mid-$50,000 US range, but when compared to the flash and features of leading luxury vehicles on the market, not to mention the free iPad you receive with your owner's manual, Hyundai may just be on to something.

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Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Top Safety Pick
2010 Jetta / 2010 Golf 5-door / 2010 Tiguan

Das Auto.

vw.ca

*Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit. Base MSRP of $22,270/$23,720/$29,635 for a new 2010 5-door Golf 2.5L / 2010 Jetta 2.5L / 2010 Tiguan 2.0T base model with 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 6-speed manual transmission, including $1,365 freight and PDI for 2010 5-door Golf / 2010 Jetta and $1,580 freight and PDI for 2010 Tiguan, $29 EHF, $100 air conditioning tax, if any, $5 OMVIC fee and $46 PPSA. Financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $631.11/$658.89/$823.19 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $22,270/$23,720/$29,635. License, insurance, registration, options, dealer administrative fee, TFFC, if applicable, and other applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends June 30, 2010 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. 2010 5-door Golf 2.5L as shown is $24,120 with options and accessories. 2010 Jetta 2.5L as shown is $26,420 with options and accessories. 2010 Tiguan 2.0T as shown is $36,410 with options and accessories. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. **Up to $750 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Golf", "Jetta" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" and "TDI Clean Diesel" are trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2010 Volkswagen Canada.

Nissan floats Leaf website

Nissan Canada has launched a new consumer website for its Leaf, offering Canadians the opportunity to learn about its new all-electric vehicle. The Leaf will go on sale in Canada in the second half of 2011. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Jetta, Golf solid German combo

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 1999 to 2005 Volkswagen Golf / Jetta
VEHICLE TYPE: Sedan / Hatchback
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $3,000 to $14,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: Few if any cars brought German-engineered motoring to the masses like the Volkswagen Jetta and its hatchback sibling, the Golf. By offering a high-quality cabin, refined powertrains and a taste of the European luxury highlife, the Jetta and Golf brought the sought-after attributes of a German car to an affordable level. Last-generation models were on sale from 1999 to 2005.

The Jetta and Golf model range offered something for everyone. In addition to hatchback, sedan and wagon body styles, several engines were also available– including a standard 115-horsepower four-cylinder and a powerful 2.8 litre V6. A turbocharged four-cylinder were also available, as was the brand's acclaimed TDI diesel engine.

Look for horsepower ranging from 115 with the standard four-cylinder engine up to 200 with the late-model VR6 powerplant on board. Transmission choices included a five or six-speed manual, as well as a four or five-speed automatic– depending on the model in question.

Features included heated leather seating, remote access, a sunroof, an upgraded stereo system and plenty more.

Second Gear

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: No surprises here. Most owners say they love the way their Jetta and Golfs feel — in terms of handling, ride quality, steering and acceleration. Performance with the upper-level engines is also frequently praised, as are the luxurious appointments, styling, mileage and high-quality driving atmosphere.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Common gripes include a tight rear seat, louder-than-expected base engine, and the placement and size of the cupholders.

COMMON ISSUES: The Jetta and Golf were popular for many reasons, but relative reliability wasn't one of them. A list of careful checks is advised prior to setting off on a test-drive. Check for smooth, operation of all power windows in both directions, and spend some time ensuring all interior electronic devices work as expected– noting that many owners have reported niggling electrical and wiring problems. An illuminated check-engine light, hesitation under acceleration or poor overall performance could be the result of a failed or failing engine control sensor. If you notice any of these symptoms, be sure to have them addressed.

Skip any model with an automatic gearbox that feels jerky or hard during gear changes, and also avoid models with the 1.8 liter turbo engine if its full service history isn't available. These engines were known for a potentially fatal oil sludge problem that could be an issue if the oil wasn't changed religiously.

THE VERDICT: If you're set on a Jetta or Golf for its upscale driving experience, be sure to have any model you're considering inspected by a qualified VW technician prior to purchase.

A 2001 VW Jetta, left, and Golf

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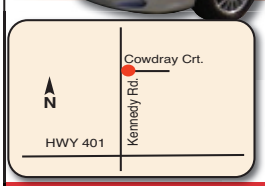

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The Yozora edge

Mazda has announced the launch of the 2011 Mazda2 Yozora, a special limited-edition version of its all-new Mazda2 subcompact. The Yozora is finished in a brilliant black exterior paint and features a themed decal package on the front driver's side bumper and fender. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

535i sporty to the max

The BMW 535i will be available in Canada in June.

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

2011 BMW 535i

Type: Mid-size sport sedan
Price: Not available
Engine: 3.0L
HP: 300

Highlights

- Elegant look
- Fresh interior
- Communicative drive

In the world of the premium mid-sized sport sedan, the arrival of a fresh BMW 5 Series is no small affair. The Five has pretty much set the standard for engaging dynamics in this category.

The outgoing model, penned by then BMW design chief Chris Bangle, created quite a kerfuffle when it was launched almost six years ago — angular and in-your-face with leering cat's eyes headlights.

Viewing the all-new sixth generation 2011 535i for the first time (coming to Canada June 2010 along with the V8 550i), it's clear the Bangle-era of BMW is history.

Current design head Adrian van Hooydonk has arrived at a considerably less daring saloon. It's softer, more elegant, and with a wheelbase stretch of 80 mm, the Five's front wheels are pushed well forward, leaving very little overhang. There are some nice design touches here like the prominent hood ridges and large twin-kidney grill, but overall this new Five looks as though it will blend into the automotive landscape largely unnoticed.

The BMW 5 Series has always been defined by the driving experience, so how does this sedan shape up? Does the new electric steering (replacing the time-honoured but less efficient hydraulic rack) compromise the Five's legendary steering feel? Does the new double-wishbone front suspension (replacing the traditional but unsophisticated MacPherson struts) improve this sedan's relationship with the road?

No and yes. In other words, good news all 'round.

Steering is meaty, well weighted and communicative in that BMW way. What surprises most is the newfound compliance in the suspension — an area where BMW has always erred on the side of harshness to achieve its sporting target. Road irregularities pass under the car with a muted thawump, yet the 535i feels taught, composed and balanced at all times. It was a joy to fling over the rural Portuguese blacktop.

The 3.0L direct-injection straight-six goes from a twin-turbo setup to a single twin-scroll turbo for 2011, and gains Valvetronic throttle-less intake technology. All you really need to know is this is a seriously great engine, making a sonorous and lag-free 300 hp and 300 lb.-ft from 1200-5000 r.p.m. It is coupled to a new eight-speed auto — a six-speed manual transmission will also be available in the 535i and V8 550i.

The fresh interior benefits from a more elegant design and finer detailing, bringing it up to speed with the Audi A6 and new Mercedes-Benz E-Class. The centre stack is angled seven degrees towards the driver, giving the car an intimate cockpit feel.

If you wish to throw a bunch of money at your as yet unpriced 2011 535i, BMW will be happy to oblige. Adaptive Drive adds an electronic active damping system, active anti-roll bars, and Dynamic Drive Control with four presets that vary the parameters of the dampers, throttle, transmission mapping and stability control.

Other gizmos include Park Assist, Top View cameras, Frontal Collision Warning, Active Blind Spot Detection, Lane Departure Warning, a Head-Up Display, and Night Vision with Pedestrian Detection.

Loyalty Can Be Costly

Shopping Around Still The Key To Saving On Car Insurance

How Much Is Your Loyalty Discount Really Worth?

If you're like most consumers, you worry that switching insurance companies means losing your "loyalty discount". The truth is that switching insurance companies may cause you to lose your loyalty discount (*if you had one in the first place*), but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll pay more for car insurance or that you can't save a bundle in the end. The fact is, some insurance companies may provide a small discount on your premium if you've been with them for a long time – but that small discount can quickly become irrelevant if another company has a rate for you that is significantly less than what you're currently paying. After all, what good is 5% off of an annual rate of $1,500 (a $75 savings) if you could pay $1,100 (a $400 savings) with another company?

How Much Do Rates Really Differ Across Companies?

The rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. And with so many insurance companies providing car insurance in Ontario, odds are you are not currently insured with the company that offers the best rate for your driving profile. This is where InsuranceHotline.com can help by providing an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 top insurance companies to find you the lowest rate available for your profile. Even better, once your lowest rate is found, InsuranceHotline.com can connect you with a licensed insurance broker or agent to seal the deal. It's Fast, Safe and FREE.

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Unlike most of its competitors, InsuranceHotline.com does not sell insurance, is not a licensed broker or agent, and is not owned in whole or in part by an insurance company. This allows InsuranceHotline.com to be completely unbiased when providing insurance quotes and keeps its focus solely on finding the lowest insurance rates for consumers. By contrast, most websites offering to "compare insurance quotes" are owned by or affiliated with insurance brokers or agents and are therefore only capable of quoting rates from the limited number of insurance companies they represent, typically no more than 4 or 5.

Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Savings
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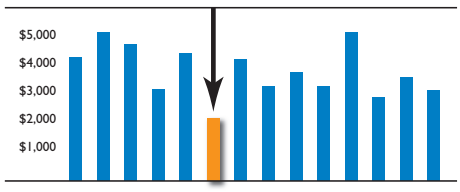

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Tires still improperly inflated: Report

The percentage of Canadian vehicles with improperly inflated tires has fallen dramatically, but more than half of all motorists are estimated to be driving with at least one tire inflated above or below the recommended pressure, according to a new report commissioned by the Rubber Association of Canada (RAC). METRO NEWS SERVICES

Subaru's 'boxer' still packs punch

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

While it isn't new technology, it's one of the more misunderstood: Subaru's famous "boxer" engine and Symmetrical All-Wheel-Drive. Just about everyone's heard the terms, but aren't sure exactly what they mean.

All Subaru cars (Forester pictured) sold in North America feature the automaker's "boxer" engine.

Driving Force

"We've been using the boxer engine since 1965," says Peter Johnson, product specialist for sales training for Subaru Canada.

"Every engine that we sell in North America is a boxer."

Also called a "flat" or "pancake" engine, a boxer engine's pistons lie flat on either side of the crankshaft, unlike an inline engine, where they're upright, or a V engine, where they're slanted on either side of the crankshaft in the shape that gives the engine its name, as in V6.

"There are key advantages to having a boxer engine," Johnson says. "It sits lower in the vehicle than a conventional engine so there's a lower centre of gravity for better handling. There are better aerodynamics, because the hood line can be lower. There's improved passive safety: because the engine sits on a downward angle, it "submarines" under the passenger compartment in a severe collision. It's also lightweight, and that improves handling, braking, acceleration and weight distribution."

Boxer engines are also inherently smoother, because the pistons on one side counteract the vibration of pistons on the other. Other engines usually contain a balance shaft to offset the piston vibration; boxer engines don't need this heavy extra part.

The boxer engine is a key part of Subaru's Symmetrical All-Wheel-Drive – which isn't, as many people think, an equal amount of power going to each wheel. Rather, it describes the system's symmetrical design.

"If you had a bird's-eye view of our drivetrain, you could cut it down the centre and fold it over itself," Johnson says.

"The left side is equal to the right." The balanced design and lower centre of gravity improve the car's handling.

Many modern cars have transverse engines, which sit sideways in the engine compartment, with their transmissions mounted on the side. Because of this, the left and right front axle shafts — which transfer power from the engine and transmission to the wheels — are different lengths. This can result in undesirable characteristics on front-wheel-drive vehicles, such as torque steer, where the car pulls to one side on hard acceleration due to the uneven shaft lengths.

Subaru engines are longitudinal, facing front to rear, with the transmission connected at the back of the engine.

"The advantage is that you have a long-travel front suspension, because you have equal-length axle shafts, and that absorbs road irregularities better," Johnson says.

"You also have a tighter turning radius, which is great in urban settings. It's all very effective and very efficient."

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Das Auto.

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GT model shown

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GT model shown

Winner of the 2010 AJAC Award for Best New Small Car under $21,000
"Best Economy Car" – World of Wheels Magazine's Editors' Choice Awards for 2009

2010 MAZDA3
TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 For DSC-equipped models*
★★★★★ HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING*
0% purchase financing† up to 60 months
well equipped from $17,390* offer excludes taxes
Standard Features: 2.0 L engine (optional 2.5 L engine) • AM/FM CD player with MP3 functionality • Engine immobilizer • ABS • Power windows, mirrors & locks • Power-assisted 4-wheel disc brakes • Dual front & side air bags • Dual side air curtains

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Juan Carlos Velis has appeared in TV shows such as The Border and Relic Hunter.

The Border actor relies on Alero

"I really like its (2004 Oldsmobile Alero) traction in the winter."
Juan Carlos Velis

Name: Juan Carlos Velis

Why's he famous: Canadian actor who's appeared in numerous TV shows including The Border, Relic Hunter and Blue Murder as well as movies and more than 30 commercials. He's currently starring in Death and the Maiden at The St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, which opens today.

His drive: A green, four-door 2004 Oldsmobile Alero.

Why the Alero? I bought it in 2006 in Vancouver where I was living at the time. In Vancouver everybody wants to drive Japanese cars and the Alero was a lot cheaper and that's the one I liked.

What's the car's best feature? I really like its traction in the winter. I don't know what it's called, but the car lowers and it really helps with driving in snow. We have a joke with our friends that our favourite feature is the manual windows. Everything in the car is automatic except for the windows, which you still have to roll down yourself. People are always looking for the button and we joke that we paid extra for the manual roll down because it's environmentally friendly (laughs).

What kind of driver are you? I'm actually a very good driver. I consider myself a very safe driver. I love going on road trips. I drove the car across Canada to Toronto when we moved from Vancouver.

What would we find in your glove compartment right now? My GPS, there's a Stewart McClean CD. For the last three years, we listen to it Christmas morning when we're coming home from my parents, they live in London and we drive to my wife's parents' place in Bolton. So that CD just stays there all year round.

In your trunk? Right now, it's full of baby things. My wife is expecting in June. But there are also my headshots and resumés, books, plays are in there as well. Then there's also some safety stuff in case of a road emergency.

Heather Buchan is a Toronto-based journalist who has worked at Homemakers, Canadian Living, Canadian House & Home and, most recently, Hello! Canada, where she cut her teeth in the world of celebrities.

Porsche Panamera GT most 'inspired'

HONOUR According to editors of Ward's AutoWorld, a U.S. trade publication, the new Porsche Panamera Gran Turismo's inner sanctum is the industry's most "inspired design."

Introduced last fall, the Panamera is Porsche's first-ever four-door sports car. It was conceived and designed as a grand touring car, combining Porsche's renowned driving performance with a supremely comfortable and luxurious interior. Additionally, this new design language will be continued in the upcoming all-new Porsche Cayenne and is featured on the new 918 Spyder concept.

The Porsche Panamera Gran Turismo received the most "inspired design" award from the editors of Ward's Autoworld.

FROM CARGUIDE

NLC to close campuses, lay off staff
Faced with a $2.5 million shortfall, B.C.-based Northern Lights College has had to close campus operations in Atlin and Dease Lake and reduce staff, both non-unionized staff and unionized faculty and support staff. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

FNUC plans to sell campus

First Nations University of Canada president Shauneen Pete announced this week that the institution will sell its satellite campus in Saskatoon as part of a major financial overhaul. Cuts to faculty and staff are also expected to take place at FNUC's other campuses in Regina and Prince Albert. All students from the Saskatoon campus will be able to complete their degrees. REGINA LEADER-POST

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Vet school check list: Grades, guts, heart

Paws, Claws **and Jobs**

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

There's an old saying that doctors treat ailing humans while veterinarians deal with everything else. "We say real doctors work on more than one species," laughs Kylie Evans, director of student services at the University of Calgary's faculty of veterinarian medicine.

Becoming a vet requires a mix of academic achievement and personal disposition. Calgary, like most vet programs, selects students based on strong grades and a strong interview convincing them the potential student can make the cut. Only about 30 of the 150 annual applicants are accepted.

The four-year program is hands-on and students work with real animals within weeks of starting. "There's a lot to learn so it's generally an intense course," Evans says.

Evans is originally from Australia and has worked in several countries as a small-animal vet. The employability is a huge plus to the field, she says.

"I don't think I've ever met an unemployed vet," she says. "There's a veterinary shortage throughout the world."

Serge Messier, a faculty member at the University of Montreal, says they take about 90 students a year and 85 per cent are female.

The mostly French-language programs are largely set, but students can chose electives in later years to point to more specific career paths. The fifth year is clinical rotations and everyone emerges with the same qualification as a general veterinary practitioner, whether they want to work with cats and dogs or cows and horses.

"Those that go on the job market don't have any difficulty finding places to work," he says.

> **"I don't think I've ever met an unemployed vet."**
> U of C's Kylie Evans

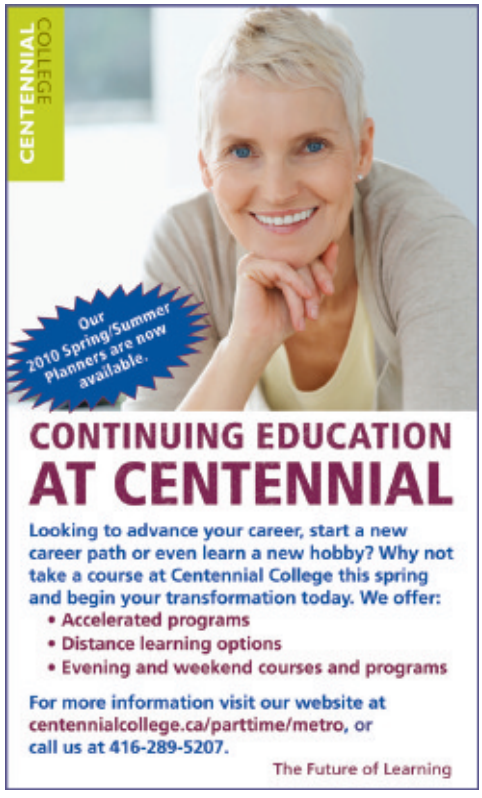
Douglas Freeman, dean of the Western College of Veterinarian Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, adds that it's true, so long as you're flexible about field and location. Saddled with student loans and desiring to live in a city, many graduates seek more lucrative work in urban or suburban small-animal clinics that cater to pets.

"We have a hard time across North America of attracting and keeping veterinarians in rural, production-animal practice," he says.

Along with a passion for medicine, students should have a love for all animals, including humans, as dealing with an animal means dealing with its owner.

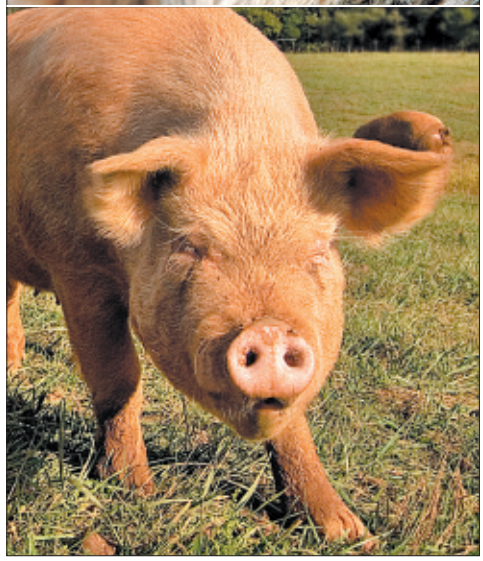
Vets also blend compassion with pragmatism for the hard side of the job. Putting down a healthy animal, be it a dog with behaviour problems or a cow that isn't worth fixing, is never easy, Freeman says.

For more of the Paws, Claws and Jobs exclusive series check Workology every Wednesday or stop by: **metronews.ca/work**



ENEAS DE TROYA/FLICKR: ENEAS

MARK PETERS/FLICKR: SNEAKERDOG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Not all vets deal solely with dogs and cats; some work with pigs, horses and cows. At veterinary school students learn this quickly.

Workology in **brief**

BOOTH COLLEGE TO BECOME UNIVERSITY COLLEGE A Manitoba NDP MLA recently introduced legislation that would make official the status of William and Catherine Booth College, a Winnipeg-based theological institution and seminary affiliated with the Salvation Army, as a university college. As part of its upgrade to a university college, Booth now requires its students to meet university entrance standards. The University of Manitoba has amended its admission standards so that future Booth graduates in administration, arts, business, and social work can apply to uManitoba's graduate studies faculty. Booth's president hopes the name change will become official in time for the start of fall classes. Last year, the Manitoba government allowed Booth to market itself as a university college.

ST. CLAIR BREAKS GROUND FOR CENTRE FOR APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES St. Clair College in Windsor, Ont., held a groundbreaking ceremony last Friday for its $32 million Centre for Applied Health Sciences. College president John Strasser says St. Clair's current complement of up to 1,500 health sciences students will expand by at least 20 per cent, or up to 300 students, in the centre's first year. The centre, to open in 2012, is expected to offer courses in cardiopulmonary technology, dental assisting and hygiene, nursing, physiotherapy, radiology technology, and respiratory therapy.

B.C. TO OVERSEE UBC'S LAND-USE PLANNING Last week, the B.C. government introduced legislation to transfer control of local land-use planning for the University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus from the Metro Vancouver regional government to the province.

TRENT BOARD APPROVES MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC ENROLMENT PLAN Last week, Trent University's board of governors approved the 2010-13 Multi-Year Enrolment and Retention Plan, providing a framework for the institution to grow its enrolment in Oshawa, Ont., for the next three years and strategically boost Trent's overall student numbers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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"NOT MANY MEN HAVE BOTH GOOD FORTUNE AND GOOD SENSE."
–TITUS LIVY

Employees faced with changes to their jobs used to just deal with the problem and move on. Seldom did they protest and if they did — it often did not matter. Now, armed with the knowledge that they can resign instead and sue for constructive dismissal, employees faced with a problem at work will call their lawyer.

What is a constructive dismissal and when will this claim succeed?

Changed hours of work

If a specific shift or certain hours have become customary, an employer cannot make any real change without that employee's consent. In a recent Ontario case, the court found that Ken Blair was constructively dismissed because, after nine years of working only rotating shifts, his company suddenly forced him to work nights.

Reduction in compensation

Pay cuts, even minor ones, can permit an employee to leave and then sue for severance. There are cases where a five per cent reduction in overall pay was viewed as a dismissal, but there are also cases where a 13 per cent decline was rejected. As well, since compensation is made up of benefits, bonuses or any other perquisite, a change to these terms can also amount to a dismissal.

Temporary layoff

Unless a contract provides otherwise, there is no right to lay off an employee. If not recalled back to work in a reasonable time period, that employee can view the job as at an end and sue for severance.

Harassment or discrimination

Harassed employees can leave and then sue for damages as if they had just been fired. But since harassment is often in the eyes of the beholder, a tough boss may not necessarily mean there will be a successful claim. The employee must objectively show that there was no other reasonable option but to immediately leave.

Changed responsibilities

Unless a contract states otherwise, an employee is hired for a defined job and this cannot be changed without consent. Since employers cannot "force" new duties on employees, usually these occur over time and it is often by design. However, whether a job gradually changes or is changed overnight will seldom matter. The courts will ask whether the job the employee is performing is what she was hired to do.

FLICKR.Y

If something drastic has changed in your outlook at your job, complaining to the world isn't likely going to help. However, you may be able to resign and sue for constructive dismissal.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Creative teams soar high post-recession

There may be one upside to the challenging economic conditions of the past few years: Creative teams are stronger now than before the recession.

Most marketing and advertising executives say their teams are stronger now than they were before the recession began.

Sixty-one per cent of advertising and marketing executives polled said the caliber of their firms' creative talent is higher than it was three years ago. According to this Creative Group study, only six per cent felt the level of talent within their firm had declined.

"Businesses hold on to their best people, even in a difficult economy. But many companies are also taking the opportunity to enhance the overall skills of their teams by upgrading their talent bench," said Donna Farrugia, executive director of The Creative Group. "High unemployment levels have left many talented creative professionals in search of jobs."

Farrugia added that retaining top creative talent will become more of a concern as the economy gains momentum. "Many employees are biding their time, waiting for new opportunities to open as the recovery takes hold," she said. "It's important to identify key staff members now and make sure these workers know they are appreciated and that there is a career path for them within the organization."

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Southwest for bumping passengers
Southwest Airlines Co., which bumped more passengers than any U.S. carrier last year, has been fined $200,000 for violating rules on kicking passengers off oversold flights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

Finding the best of England

Frommer's England 2010 features gorgeous color photos and maps, a detachable foldout map of London, and details on all of the country's top cities, villages, gardens, countryside destinations, and more. Frommer's England 2009 details the best overall travel experiences, from pub crawls to antique shopping to theater-going. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

5 great coffee shops

Metro finds the best places in Turin to sip some joe

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

Few cities take their coffee more seriously than Turin.

And if Wikipedia describes coffee as "a brewed drink prepared from roasted seeds," then it's safe to assume the writer has probably never been to Italy.

In Italy, coffee is an art form; a cornerstone of cultural and social life, and an intrinsic part of the daily ritual.

And nowhere is it taken more seriously than in Turin — home of Lavazza.

Here's our favourite five.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Turin coffee is closer to an art form than anything its museums have to offer.

1 Caffè San Carlo

God's own coffee shop — this place has as much Carerra marble as St. Peters and is twice as opulent.

A gorgeous, gilded, chandelier-heavy establishment which has provided amazing service since 1822. Coffee at $1 a cup seems like stealing.

(Piazza San Carlo 156)

2 Baratti e Milano

Looking like a relative youngster at only 151-years-old, the Baratti e Milano is similarly steeped in classiness and history. There's an old fashioned pride in the way the coffee is served.

(Piazza Castello 27)

3 Caffè Torino

This one is only about 70-years-old, but still hugely impressive. There's a gold bull inlaid in the pavement outside promising good luck to those who step on his, ahem, cajones. Huge welcome and superb coffee.

(Piazza San Carlo 204)

4 Bar Mokita

It doesn't try to compete with the history of the big boys, but this bar's '70s boutique style is very Turin. It attracts a very cool business/media type of drinker and serves excellent coffee. Great place for a pre-dinner prosecco.

(Piazza San Carlo 217)

5 Caffè Mulassano

It's a small but perfectly formed coffee shop that is well-used by serious coffee lovers. It has a lovely decor, plush furnishings and countless objets d'art, and, for me, the best espresso in the city.

(Piazza Castello 15)

San Carlo has been serving cups of coffee since 1822.

Mokita is a popular spot for the after-work business crowd.

6 Great Turin Hotels

- Chelsea: The lovely, family-operated Hotel Chelsea offers all its guests welcoming and elegant environment. Just recently renovated, the hotel offers all the modern comforts to suit the needs of both business and leisure travelers, without an uptight feel that some area hotels have.
- Town House 70: The hotel Town House 70 boasts a strategic location in Turin city center, just behind the main square of the city – the famous Piazza Castello. The area features opulent Baroque churches and interesting museums.
- Hotel Residence Sporting: Hotel Residence Sporting in Turin has a limited number of rooms, but they are all finely furnished with a luxury design. Every room is equipped with kitchen facilities, AC, heating unit, safe deposit, shower, satellite TV and internet access.
- Pacific Hotel Fortino: Cosy little flats and 92 different rooms available that will assure you a pleasant stay in Turin, at short distance from the airport Sndro Pertini. The Pacific hotel is a four-star hotel with rooms equipped for physically handicapped guests.
- Principe di Piemonte: The hotel Principe di Piemonte is an elegant five-star hotel, with luxury suites available and a golf ground nearby; located near one of the most famous shopping venue, Via Roma, and the railway station Porta Nuova
- Artuà & Solferino: The hotel Artuà & Solferino is situated in one of the most elegant areas of the historical centre of Turin, Piazza Solferino, in a quiet and little street close to the famous Egizio Museum and the Royal Palace. The area is very safe even at night , ideal for women.

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*Trade-mark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.

More gambling in Singapore
Singapore's second casino-resort opened yesterday, a massive $5.7 billion project by Las Vegas Sands Corp., that aims to makeover the city-state as a Southeast Asian gambling and tourism magnet. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Uncover Ubud's magic

Far from the party scene is a town for the discerning traveller

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ubud is the spiritual centre for Bali, featuring numerous health treatment options.

With its sprawling paddy fields and bustling markets, Ubud allows for lots of different experiences.

Ubud drips with new age holistic healing centres.

Bali will heal things you didn't even know were broken.

Widely considered one of the world's last untouched elite travel destinations Ubud mixes old world tradition and new world comfort.

WHY GO NOW?

Our recent Metro Travel survey showed Bali to be our readers favourite destination in the world. So we thought it was time to take a closer look at one of Bali's most sublime towns Ubud.

Ubud is not a beach resort as it lies pretty much in the middle of the island but for more than a century, it has been the island's centre for fine arts, dance and music.

It was traditionally a haven for backpackers, would-be gurus, and bohemians, and they are still very much here.

Ubud is now also a major hot-spot for the discerning traveller.

Yes, five star hotels now overlook the most prized views in Bali but Ubud's super-cool alternative feel, and indeed its magic, is still very much intact.

Ubud is arguably the best place to use as a base if you're visiting Bali.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME — WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Try the Banyan Tree Bike Tour.

Walking Ubud on foot is a must to get under its skin but to squeeze as much Bali into one day as possible you need to take to two wheels.

After being picked up you will breakfast looking over sprawling paddy fields, then ride the real Bali before finishing with a home-cooked meal in a Balinese house and if possible a temple ceremony. (banyantreebiketours.com)

I'VE BEEN BEFORE — WHAT'S NEW THERE?

Ubud is positively dripping with new age healing holistic hippiness, and frankly it's best not to fight it.

So embrace the healing and treat yourself to a yoga session and massage. Our favourites are The Yoga Barn (theyogabarn.com) for its beautiful location and Nur Salon for its uncompromising massages.

Be warned you'll be completely naked and in no small amount of pain.

They suggest you ask them to be more gentle — it's good advice that you should take.

WHERE'S THE BEST SHOPPING?

Shopping in Ubud is a fantastic eye-boggling experience.

The main shopping areas are Jalan Raya, Jalan Hanoman and Jalan Dewi Sita, three interconnecting streets.

Experience Bali's magic

You'll find everything from ancient antiques to modern art, and cheap souvenirs to precious artifacts. Bargaining is the norm but be polite.

There's also the multi-storey Ubud market, a bustling maze of stalls and shops that sell quite simply everything.

WHAT'S THE NIGHTLIFE LIKE?

Ubud nightlife is a refreshing change from the identikit clubs of the coast resorts.

It is far more relaxed and you will find much traditional dancing and music here. For drinks try the Laughing Buddha Bar with its street-side tables and view of Monkey Forest Road or the supercool Jazz Café which offers fabulous cocktails, Asian cuisine, and jazz or world music in an atmosphere so laid back it's horizontal.

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Unknown shopping cities

Forget Paris, Metro finds destinations that won't break the bank

KATHLEEN SQUIRES
Metro World News

These burgeoning shopping havens are a real eye-opener for retail therapy junkies. Find your designs without dropping a mint for them.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Buenos Aires has everything for a shopper — from flea markets and high-end designer shops.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The idea for the shopping mall was probably inspired by the Grand Bazaar, the 500-year-old covered market with 4,000 shops. Nisantasi is the for high-end design while department store Beymen features a collection of local hero Hussein Chalayan's designs.

BERLIN, GERMANY

Bohemia rules in Berlin, where Kurfurstendamm is the main shopping drag. Don't miss the KaDeWe department store, Europe's second largest, with its impressive gourmet food hall. Terrific specialty shops too — try Uber Store for designy, eclectic housewares.

BANGKOK, THAILAND

Two days are barely enough time to absorb the Weekend Market, where you can pick up anything from crafts to live roosters among 15,000 stalls. Love gemstones? Poke around the dozens of traders around Charoen Krung, Silom and SuraSak roads.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Sophisticated style earned B.A. its nickname as the Paris of South America. Antiquers scour San Telmo's market at Plaza Dorrego while leather lovers prowl the shops along the Calle Florida.

Palermo has the hippest boutiques, if not a little stuffy. But you can find cool stuff at Calle El Salvador there.

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Ahead of this year's FIFA World Cup shopping has become a sport in this city. The place to spend your rand: De Waterkant, a quaint cobblestoned neighborhood of 18th century cottages. Design aficionados should hit locally-inspired Africa Nova.

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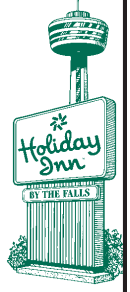

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Towering sandstone buttles reach up to touch the sky in this endless landscape.

Emotional landscape

Monument Valley's history, views will move you

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

It's hard not to get a bit emotional in Monument Valley, it's just that kind of place.

Awe is the first emotion; because the landscape, towering surreal sandstone buttes that look like they have no business being on earth, are awesome — awesome like what-a-truly-incredible-planet-we-live-on awesome.

You will find no shortage of guides along the Utah-Arizona border willing to help you explore either on foot, or horseback, or 4x4.

But there's only one real option — horseback.

You can negotiate anything from an hour to a week, and haggle about the price which usually ranges from about $10 for an hour to $50 for a day of riding.

The guides are extraordinarily knowledgeable about the region's history. And after a potted version of what was basically a genocide (culminating in "The Long Walk" when the battered and bowed Navajo walked a corpse-strewn path to a new and wholly inadequate reservation) you'll find yourself emotionally wrought things in a silent landscape, the winds, genuinely affecting.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Learning the history is part of the experience of the trail.

Flights

- For flights, prices, times and bookings see goutah.com

Cruise and Diaz join MTV lineup
Tom Cruise and his Knight and Day costar Cameron Diaz are among the first presenters announced for this year's MTV Movie Awards. The actors will be joined on the starry telecast by Diddy, who is also a confirmed presenter. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

So Much Bieber

Canadian commotion-causer Justin Bieber and American sweetheart Katy Perry will take centre stage at the 2010 MuchMusic Video Awards. Both will perform at the June 20 event.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movie moms break new ground

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

With Mother's Day quickly approaching, this isn't just a reminder to order flowers, buy a card and book brunch for dear mumsy; it's also a reminder that, at least in Hollywood, moms are still trying to get out of the kitchen.

"We've made some strides certainly as a culture," states University of Toronto Cinema Studies Professor Corinn Columpar. "But I think there's a lot of holdover from the past."

The traditional image of on-screen mothers has surely evolved since the mid-'60s when pre-feminist films like The Thrill of it All portrayed Doris Day as a mom who makes it in the working world only to concede to her begrudging husband that she wants to "go back to just being a doctor's wife."

However, as Columpar contends, most mainstream movies still feature maternal roles that fit into either one of two traditional cinematic archetypes: The self-sacrificing martyr (typified by classics like Mildred Pierce or Stella Dallas) or the domineering mother (as in Mommie Dearest or even Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho).

"Think about Precious," says Columpar of the recent Oscar-nominated domineering-mother drama. "Precious is basically all about a girl having to define herself against her mother ... that mother is short of being a monster but she's still very much drawn in a way that's familiar."

The lesbian/parental comedy The Kids Are Alright is a more progressive example of motherhood.

Columpar adds that typically when Hollywood casts moms as central characters, "Those tend to be understood of a melodramatic tradition and that isn't typically a popular cinematic tradition."

"When I think about some of the most interesting, contemporary films about mothers — and specifically about the relationships mothers have with their children — they're small films, usually made by independent filmmakers."

Columpar points to upcoming movies Please Give and the lesbian/parental comedy The Kids Are Alright as more progressive examples of motherhood in cinema.

Still, she remains encouraged that even if maternal roles are diversifying ever so slowly, at least moms' on-screen visibility is on the rise.

"(Mainly) that has to do with, for example, the rise in Chick-Lit and its corollary in cinema," says Columpar.

"I still don't know if I'd say that's where you're finding interesting representations of motherhood but there is a sense that the boys market is falling off a little bit."

Bonding over the reel world

Metro movie critic Anne Brodie talks about her travels through the world of film with her mother.

My mother is Lorna Mary Morris Lawrence Brodie, a very proper 89-year old English war veteran who watched Allied bombers fly across the channel to France on D-Day from her radar desk.

She met my father, Col. John Brodie, and came to Canada with him as a war bride, where she knew no one. She raised three children, later alone, and didn't have time for movies. She worried as I frittered hours away at the show or glued to TV. She was energetic and curious, traveling to Turkey, China, Scandinavia, South America, Europe preferring real life to reel life. "Man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" was her mantra.

But in the last several years as she slowed down, movies brought us together in unexpected ways. She asks me about the films I screen and wishes me "good inspiration" to write the reviews. Mother came to the occasional screening and junket in L.A., where she waltzed with Mel Gibson in the lobby of the Four Seasons.

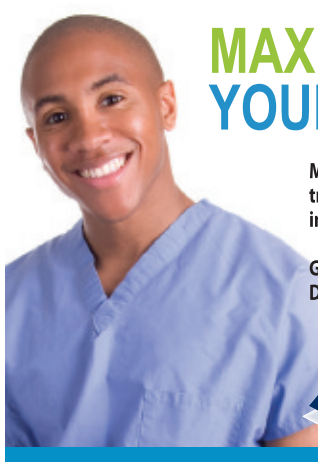
Gradually she opened her mind to films and developed a passion for documentaries. We used to watch films in the nursing home theatre but that got to be a bit too much for her. It's bittersweet and urgent as her health fails, but we manage laughs and connection. I tell her elaborate movie plots, like Scheherazade. She recently gave me her collection of Hollywood star cigarette cards from the '30s that I long coveted.

Our tastes are dissimilar; she doesn't care much for "old" films, which I love, because she doesn't like looking backwards. Here are some of her favourites:

- The Cider House Rules, romantic, sexy and set in the New England countryside
- Harry un ami qui vous veut du bien / With a Friend Like Harry, a thriller, set in the French countryside
- The Sound of Music, that musical set in the Swiss countryside, which I refused to watch after the umpteenth time
- The Weeping Camel, she never cried, this made her cry.

ANNE BRODIE/ FOR METRO CANADA

Anne Brodie and her mom Lorna Mary Morris Lawrence Brodie.



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In the documentary Babies, director Thomas Balmes explores the live of babies in four countries.

No agenda, plan in Babies documentary

IAN GORMLEY
for Metro Canada

Documentary films have enjoyed unprecedented success with audiences over the last five years, but according to Thomas Balmes, director of the new film Babies, all those movies — be it Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth or Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 — offer a skewed version of reality.

"The specificity of documentary is reality," insists the director. "Things with narration, interviews, archives, according to me, are not documentary."

His film, Babies, examines the lives of four babies in four different countries — U.S.A., Japan, Namibia and Mongolia from birth to their first steps.

"Here you don't have one thing that has been set up. This is the most rough material in the world; long shots with very little editing, very little music and absolutely no verbal communication," he says. "Nevertheless you have comedy, you have drama you have tensions, the usual things you can expect from a film."

Alain Chabat, most famous in North America for directing Asterix and Obelix, first approached Balmes about film a nature documentary about babies.

"I adopted the original idea to something that I felt comfortable with."

Having with Chabet on board as a producer gave him the trust of their financial backers to create such a simple but ambitious film.

"It's very unusual to have such confidence," says Balmes. Normally, "you can't say to a guy at a studio, 'Well I don't know what's going to happen, but believe me it's going to be good.'"

Balmes doesn't favour one form of child rearing over another. Instead, he wants people to compare the way children are raised in different cultures. "I'm fascinated in the variety of cultures."

Babies opens in theatres Friday

The director, born in 1960s France, says his parents went out of their way to not impose a specific lifestyle on him a as a child. He started making films when he was 20, with an aim to "shift perspective not by documenting other cultures, but by comparing them."

"There is not an agenda behind me, I'm not Michael Moore," he says. "I make films to have more questions, not to find answers."

Guilt plays big role in Please Give

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

As we move toward a summer movie season dominated by larger-than-life spectacle, the latest movie by Nicole Holofcener has come along to remind audiences of the simple pleasures of watching real people struggle through the difficulties of everyday life.

Anyone familiar with Holofcener's previous work, like Lovely And Amazing, will know what to expect from Please Give: a gentle comedy about lost and neurotic people not too distant from our own lives.

"I guess type A personalities don't draw me in as much as someone who might be lost," she says about her interest in these types of characters.

"It's not a flaw, but a kind of limitation that is dramatic, tragic, and common. People have to be screwed up to be a movie, otherwise they're in a commercial."

Please Give is about a wealthy New York couple (Catherine Keener and Oliver Platt) who live in an apartment with elderly neighbor whom they are waiting to die so that they can knock down a wall and expand their home.

It's a strange, guilt-ridden existence, but one that Holofcener took from real life.

"I had a friend who had a similar relationship with an elderly neighbor in New York, but they got along unlike in the movie," says the director.

"I thought it was such weird relationship to have with your neighbor. You know, riding up in the elevator and being like, 'How are things going?' That's where it came from."

This examination of guilt is a reoccurring theme in the filmmaker's work.

However, Please Give takes a slightly more jovial approach to the material, poking fun at Keener's character's obsession with guilt and how it needlessly cripples her.

Holofcener is quick to admit to a fascination with the subject, even if she's grown dismissive of it.

"I guess it probably comes from my absorption with guilt and my growing awareness of how pointless, narcissistic, and comical it is.

"Guilt and pity don't help anybody. I heaped those qualities on Keener's character and watched her make a fool of herself in a way that I guess I have felt about myself."

• Please Give opens in theatres on Friday.

Sparks on Broadway
American Idol winner Jordin Sparks will make her Broadway debut this August in In the Heights. The 20-year-old will perform with the musical from Aug. 19 through Nov. 14. METRO NEWS SERVICES

BSS sounds indie rock warning

TheAudioFiles

Bryan Borzykowski
metronews.ca/music

Forgiveness Rock Record is the new disc from Broken Social Scene.

Kevin Drew has a warning for fellow indie rockers — don't get greedy.

The singer and guitarist has seen a lot of changes in the music business since Broken Social Scene came together nearly a decade ago. For one, there are more people paying attention to bands that would have never received attention in the pre-Napster days. And that's not necessarily a good thing.

"The success of indie rock has brought more greed into the fold," warns BSS' co-founder and co-owner of Toronto label Arts & Crafts.

Drew says a lot of corporate money is flooding into the scene, and bands are jumping at the chance to land a big paycheque at the risk of their integrity.

He points to the Flaming Lips, whose single Do You Realize was the soundtrack for a Land Rover commercial. "It was one of the worst spots ever," he says. "It was a song written to his lover, and the commercial was a car, rear view mirrors and the grill."

BSS has had their music in a commercial too, but Drew justifies using Stars and Sons in a Cadbury spot because it was only shown in New Zealand and he thought it was well done. (It is a really neat commercial — Google it.)

Because commercials are often as powerful today as an MTV video used to be, he thinks a day will come where corporations demand bands pay them to use a song. "It'll be like payola," he says. "When that day comes that means we failed, we went about this all wrong."

With that in mind, it's unlikely music from BSS' new album, Forgiveness Rock Record, will wedge its way into your prime-time TV schedule. However, if there was any disc ripe for the corporate treatment it's this one.

The band's fourth release does away with the fuzzy noise, drowned out vocals and melodic wall of sound that's marked previous efforts. It's a pop record, through and through. It's refreshing to hear Drew and Brendan Canning's voices, and the songs are as strong as ever, but for better or worse, this record is their most conventional.

"It's a more cohesive pop record than we've ever made before," says Drew. "I love burying the vocals but it didn't work. And a lot of the sound is just time and age."

Part of it was also that BSS, once a band that had upwards of 18 members, is now down to six (including Charles Spearin, Andrew Whiteman, Justin Peroff and Sam Goldberg). Drew says they simply couldn't manage so many strong willed people, each with their own projects and managers.

"We really became a band in 2008," he says. "We wanted to make a point for people to know that this is a really focused effort by these people. It feels like there's actually boundaries and walls and places for people."

Bryan Borzykowski is a business and entertainment writer. Follow Metro Music on Twitter @TheMetroMusic

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Little Miss Sunshine being turned into a musical

Little Miss Sunshine is headed to the stage for a musical adaptation set to debut next year. Based on the 2006 film, which won two Academy Awards, the musical version of Little Miss Sunshine will debut on Feb. 15, 2011, in La Jolla, Calif. TVGUIDE.COM

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Webbys honour Ebert

Though Roger Ebert lost his ability to speak after surgery for cancer, he has found a new and powerful voice online. The film critic was chosen as person of the year by the Webby Awards.

Roger Ebert

The 14th annual Webbys, which celebrate Internet achievement, were announced yesterday by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a 550-member group of web experts.

Ebert was singled out for raising the bar for online journalism with his blog on the Chicago Sun-Times' website. He is also an avid Twitterer and is planning a new movie-review TV program that he says will have a strong presence online.

The Webbys also honoured the rock band OK Go, famous for their viral music videos, as video artist of the year. Amy Poehler, former Saturday Night Live cast member and star of NBC's Parks & Recreation, was chosen as actress of the year for her online series Smart Girls at the Party.

The Webbys have long been famous for their short speeches, which are limited to five words. (Al Gore, accepting his lifetime achievement award, said: Please don't recount this vote.) This year's winners will accept their awards June 14 in New York at a ceremony hosted by B.J. Novak of The Office. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MTV's Jersey Shore facing lawsuit

FIGHTING A judge in New Jersey has agreed to hear a lawsuit that claims producers of MTV's hit reality show Jersey Shore engaged in a criminal enterprise by profiting from showing fights that cast members deliberately provoked.

Attorney Eugene LaVergne of Long Branch said Monday that he filed the suit in March.

It seeks unspecified monetary damages on behalf of three clients involved in drunken fights with cast member Ronnie Magro. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Big stars get Tony award nominations

Star wattage will burn bright at the 2010 Tony Awards with Denzel Washington, Jude Law, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Kelsey Grammer among those receiving nominations yesterday.

Washington and Law were each cited for best actor performances in Fences and Hamlet, respectively. Zeta-Jones was nominated for best performance by a leading actress in a musical, A Little Night Music, and Grammer was nominated for lead actor in a musical, La Cage aux Folles.

"What a thrill to be nominated! The experience of doing this incredible show and working every night with such a talented group of people has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," Zeta-Jones said yesterday. "And now to be nominated for a Tony. In my dreams, I couldn't imagine a better way to make my Broadway debut."

Fela! — nominated for best musical — and La Cage aux Folles — nominated for the best musical revival — each received 11 nominations, followed by Fences with 10 nods.

Nominated for best play were In the Next Room (or the vibrator play) by Sarah Ruhl; Next Fall, by Geoffrey Nauffts; Red, by John Logan; and Time Stands Still, by Donald Margulies.

Best musical nominations went to Green Day's American Idiot; Memphis; Million Dollar Quartet; and Fela!

"I am very proud and humbled by this extraordinary recognition of our work today," said Michael Grandage, artistic director of Britain's Donmar Warehouse, who was nominated for directing Red. John Logan's engrossing, often enthralling new play about art, an artist and the act of creation, received seven Tony nominations.

In the actress-play category, the nominees were Viola Davis, Fences; Valerie Harper, Looped; Linda Lavin, Collected Stories; Laura Linney, Time Stands Still; and Jan Maxwell, The Royal Family.

Harper, whose play has closed, said the nomination was bittersweet because Looped had closed.

"That was sad and disappointing but boy does this sweeten the pot," she said. "And we have a 10-week commitment in Toronto. So there is an afterlife for the play, and that's exciting."

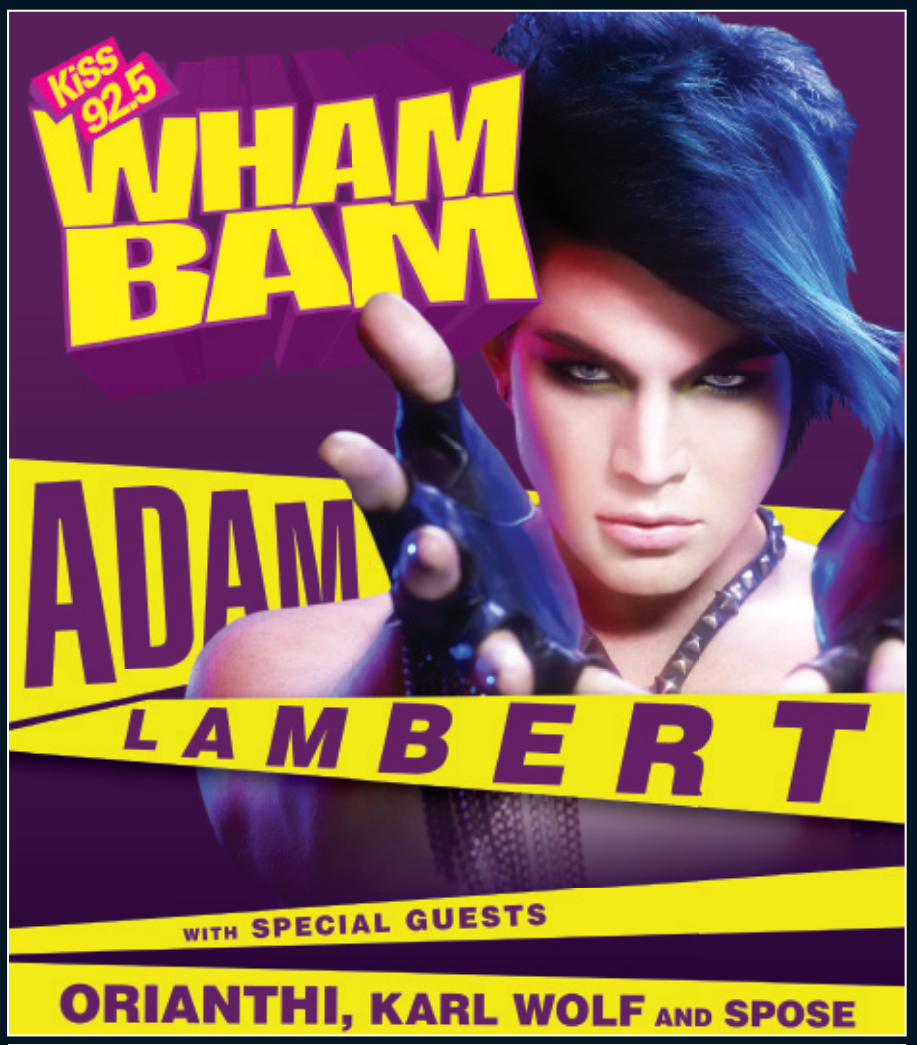
The performers competing with Zeta-Jones for the actress-musical prize were Kate Baldwin, Finian's Rainbow; Montego Glover, Memphis; Sherie Rene Scott, Everyday Rapture; and Christiane Noll, Ragtime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tony nominees

- A partial list of nominations for the 2010 Tony Awards.
- Best Play: In the Next Room (or the vibrator play), Next Fall, Red, Time Stands Still.
- Best Musical: American Idiot, Fela! Memphis, Million Dollar Quartet.
- Best Leading Actor in a Play: Jude Law, Hamlet; Alfred Molina, Red; Liev Schreiber, A View From the Bridge; Christopher Walken, A Behanding in Spokane; Denzel Washington, Fences.
- Best Leading Actress in a Play: Viola Davis, Fences; Valerie Harper, Looped; Linda Lavin, Collected Stories; Laura Linney, Time Stands Still; Jan Maxwell, The Royal Family.
- Best Leading Actor in a Musical: Kelsey Grammer, La Cage aux Folles; Sean Hayes, Promises, Promises; Douglas Hodge, La Cage aux Folles; Chad Kimball, Memphis; Sahr Ngujah, Fela!
- Best Leading Actress in a Musical: Kate Baldwin, Finian's Rainbow; Montego Glover, Memphis; Christiane Noll, Ragtime; Sherie Rene Scott, Everyday Rapture; Catherine Zeta-Jones, A Little Night Music.

AMERICAN EXPRESS



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All Bones lead to Montreal

Quick: name the hit American TV show developed in a lab in Quebec.

The show is Bones, and author Kathy Reichs based Temperance Brennan — the heroine of her crime novels which inspired the TV series — on her own experiences as a Montreal-based forensic anthropologist.

Reichs' 13th Temperance Brennan novel, Spider Bones, comes out in August but the first episode she's ever written for the series, The Witch and the Wardrobe, airs tonight on Global.

The show, which stars Emily Deschanel as forensic anthropologist Temperance (Bones) Brennan and David Boreanaz as FBI special agent Seeley Booth, is a Top 20 hit, ranking 12th overall the week of April 19-26 with close to 1.7 million viewers according to preliminary audience data from BBM Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP-TAMMIE ARROYO

Forensic specialist, novelist and scriptwriter Kathy Reichs

A professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina (UNC), Reichs got word of a one-year exchange program offered by McGill and Concordia. Having just completed a French course, she jumped at the offer. While she was teaching in Quebec, the Laboratoire des Sciences was seeking someone who was board certified in forensic anthropology and could also speak French.

"They had a pool of one candidate," says Reichs, "And that was me."

When her exchange year was up, Reichs went back and worked out a deal with UNC where she would commute one week of every six to Montreal.

"I've been doing that ever since 1990," she says.

Reichs is frequently called upon to be an expert witness in forensic evidence. She has testified before the UN Tribunal on Genocide in Rwanda and done forensic work at Ground Zero at the site of the World Trade Center in New York.

"My colleagues, we don't know how we all of a sudden became hot and sexy," she says.

Reichs submitted her first novel — based on her forensic crime lab experiences — in 1996 and figures it was the O.J. Simpson trial that really kick started general interest in the gory details.

"People listened to that stuff twenty-four/seven," she says. "Blood spatter patterns and DNA angles, stab wounds and trajectory."

Reichs' episode, The Witch in the Wardrobe, finds Booth and Brennan investigating a cabin in the woods where two bodies — one a modern day witch and one from the days of the Salem Witch Trials — send the investigative team into the world of Wicca in order to catch a killer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bones airs tonight on Global

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TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/5/10	265	353	2	TVO	The Secret Life of Primates		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital		The View From Here		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		Melrose Place		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	22 Minutes	Laughs	CBC News: The National		National	NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Vancouver Canucks.			
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Modern Family	Cougar Town	Modern Family	Better Off Ted	News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Camilla* ★★ (1994, Drama) Jessica Tandy, Bridget Fonda.				*The Kid Stays in the Picture* ★★★ (2002, Documentary)				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Old Christine	The Insider (N)	*A Decent Proposal* (2007, Drama) Jessica Tuck.				The Insider	Dream Car	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Old Christine	Big Bang	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Minute to Win It (HDTV)		Mercy (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order: SVU		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Happy Town		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: Next	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Law & Order: SVU		(10:01) Happy Town		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me (HDTV)		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Wait for God	Secrets of the Dead (N)		*The Soviet Story* (2008, Documentary)			Bonaparte's	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		Fly Girls	Fly Girls	PIX News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Top Model
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (N)		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Boston Red Sox. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at Philadelphia Flyers. (Live)					SportsCentre		NBA Basketball	
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)		Pass Time	Pass Time	Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	That's-Weird	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	Survive This	To Be Indie	Family Biz	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Cupcake Girls	Cupcake Girls	*Wedding for One* Jennifer Finnigan.		
	570	580	29	MM	My Date With...	On Set: Girl	disBAND		VideoFlow				UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator	Exterminator
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Due Mamme di Troppo				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix (N)		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Family Jewels	Family Jewels	Family Jewels
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*You Lucky Dog* (1998, Comedy) Kirk Cameron.				Secret Diary	Pure Pwnage	Law-Order
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan Files	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar "All In"		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride Poor Bride		In Laws	In Laws	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Nostradamus Effect		Ice Road Truckers (N)		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Dive Detect
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie	Hot Box	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	For Rent	Agent-Agent	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes/Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Nacho Libre* ★★ (2006, Comedy) Jack Black.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Law & Order
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		I Am Nicki	Beach Towel	*Waist Deep* ★ (2006, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Larenz Tate.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	The City	After	Cribs	Teen Cribs	The Hills	The City	The City	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Dog Whisperer		Hoarders		Hoarders "Augustine"		Enraged		Spoiled Rotten
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Eat, Shrink	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped "Fired Up!" (N)		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		No Place Like	Open All Hours	Kingdom		Unscripted (N)	Twist of Faith	Doc
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Toopy & Binoo	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing Death row inmate.		Medium "Four Dreams"		Cold Case		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	*Extract*	*A Trace of Danger* (2010, Suspense)			*Watchmen* ★★ (2009, Action) (HDTV) Billy Crudup, Malin Akerman.				
	305	612	306	PIX	*Lethal Tender* ★★ (1997, Action)			H'wd Sptlght	*From Dusk Till Dawn* ★★ (1996, Action) Harvey Keitel.				*Replikator*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		I Could Do	I Could Do	Deadliest Catch "Sea Tested"		Mayday "Cruel Skies"		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	America's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Pretty Wicked		Best Dressed

Oh look, Sienna's smitten, again
Sienna Miller turned heads at Monday's Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute gala in NYC. Miller walked down the red carpet with ex Jude Law — their first major appearance since getting back together last year, usmagazine.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Thanks medics for the fresh socket

GETTY IMAGES

WHAT? YOU DIDN'T HEAL IN SIX MINUTES? JACK WOULD HAVE Kiefer Sutherland has publicly thanked the medics who helped him get back to work on TV drama 24 just six days after he ruptured a cyst on his abdominal wall, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor spoke out for the first time about his emergency surgery in February on Monday's Ellen show in the U.S. — because he missed an appearance on the program because of his health scare.

Explaining his absence, Sutherland told host Ellen DeGeneres, "I had an adrenal cyst on my abdominal wall.

"About 75 per cent of us have cysts in our bodies and I was doing a scene on 24, where I picked up a dead body, and the weight of that, combined with, apparently my age, ruptured the cyst and it started to bleed into my abdomen … so they had to take it out.

"It all took place pretty quick … They did a phenomenal job and I was back at work six or seven days later."

Shooting on the eighth series of the action drama ground to a halt to allow the actor time out to treat the ruptured cyst near his kidney.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No bones about it

HE CHEATED ON HER. A LOT David Boreanaz admits he's cheated on his wife.

"Our marriage has been tainted with my infidelities," the Bones star tells People magazine.

"I just want to be open and honest. I was irresponsible."

Boreanaz also admits he's coming forward because a former mistress threatened to go to the media. "She asked for money," he explains. "I felt as though I was being blackmailed or there was some sort of extortion."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

PARIS HILTON is looking for a Lost tutorial, **LINDSAY LOHAN** is bracing for a visit from Dina Lohan, and **JOHN CUSACK** is weeding out the fans he doesn't like.

@ParisHilton Going to catch up on LOST. I have a couple on my Tivo that I haven't seen yet. Can someone please explain to me what the heck is going on?
@lindsaylohan oh, mother daughter time... here we go lol
@johncusack would love if all flag sucking halfwits who saw lloyd dobbler as apolitical would unfollow — they didnt pay attention to film anyway

METRO NEWS SERVICES

They're sticking it out

THAT'S NICE, BUT HOW IS BOTH OF THEM GOING TO REHAB 'UNRELATED'? Charlie Sheen and his wife have fired back at reports they're on the verge of divorce, insisting they haven't even contemplated such a thing, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor and Brooke Mueller have been largely estranged since a Christmas Day fight landed Sheen behind bars in Colorado.

The couple checked into separate rehab facilities earlier this year for unrelated and unrelated reasons, and when Sheen headed home recently, Mueller moved out of the estate they shared before the winter problems.

But the pair's representatives insist there will be no divorce, despite stories to the contrary.

"They are not seeking a divorce nor has one been contemplated," a joint statement from the reps reads. "There has been no financial agreements between the parties of any sort. Stories to the contrary are false."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

White House, shmite house

NO REALLY, SHE DOESN'T THINK SHE'S BETTER THAN YOU, MICHELLE. SHE KNOWS IT Angelina Jolie once again snubbed Barack Obama by not attending the White House Correspondents' Dinner, according to Popeater.

"Angelina is always invited by several media outlets to sit at their table, but she always refuses," a source says. "Angie is filming in Europe at the moment, but that isn't the reason she didn't attend. She didn't go because on her weekends off she would rather spend her time helping those who really need it rather than sitting, drinking champagne and laughing at bad jokes in a fancy D.C. ballroom.

"Angie doesn't judge other celebrities for wanting to rub shoulders with President Obama. It's just she is someone who thinks your actions are more important than words."

METRO WORLD NEWS

He's 21-Jump-Street trained

HE'S ALSO AN EXPERT IN BANDANA TIEING AND JEANS RIPPING Johnny Depp apparently has enough star power to thwart a mugging, according to the Sun.

The actor and a friend were recently leaving an L.A. recording studio when the friend was approached by a man brandishing a broken bottle. But when the would-be mugger spotted the Pirates of the Caribbean star, he backed off.

"He looked at Johnny and said, 'I ain't stealing from Captain Jack' and put the bottle down," a source says. "Johnny gave him a few bucks and told him to straighten up his life."

METRO WORLD NEWS

The former First Lady likes the down beat

IT'S A SMALL STEP FROM LIKING REGGAE TO THE LEGALIZATION OF MARAJUANA What does former First Lady Laura Bush have on her iPod?

The answer may surprise you, people.com reports.

"My mom's a secret Rastafarian," her daughter Jenna said in an interview on the Oprah Winfrey Show yesterday. She plays Bob Marley around the house.

Appearing on the show with her sister Barbara and mom Laura, who was promoting her new memoir Spoken from the Heart, Jenna explained what a typical night at the Bush family ranch in Crawford, Texas, is like.

There's the music (the family also listens to old country (songs), says Jenna), family activities and plenty of food.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diaz hits a dining home run

STILL DON'T GET THIS PAIRING. TO EACH THEIR OWN Cameron Diaz and Alex Rodriguez have been keeping mum on their reported relationship, but all appears to be going well.

The couple dined with pal Kate Winslet over the weekend, according to Page Six.

"They all shared a delicious meal and several bottles of French red wine," a source says. And after dinner, Diaz reportedly stayed over at the Yankees slugger's home, as she was spotted leaving Sunday morning.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Thursday Mainly sunny 17°/ 6°

Friday Showers 40% 14°/ 6°

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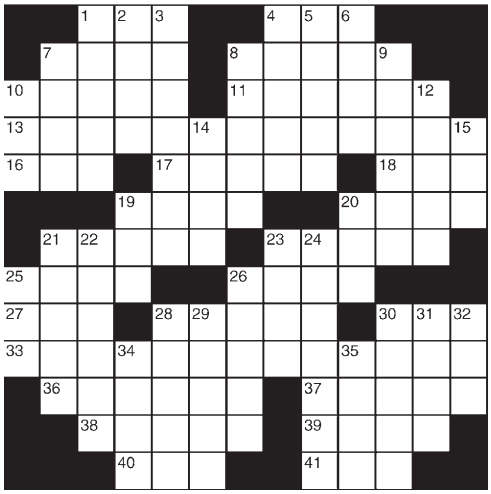


ACROSS

1 — Mahal
4 Piglets' parent
7 Former attorney general
8 Retract a comment
10 Billing cycle, often
11 Godly beverage
13 Shiny shoe material
16 Abbr. for Elizabeth II
17 Bake eggs
18 Unclose, in verse
19 Sulk
20 Snitched
21 Genghis and Kublai
23 "Loves me (not)" flower
25 Encounter
26 Kaplan who played Kotter
27 Regis and Kelly's network
28 Finnish hot spot
30 Spy-novel org.
33 Phrase that prevents idea theft
36 Shepherd of rhyme
37 Likewise
38 Pass along
39 Sandwich cookie
40 Shade provider
41 Homer's neighbor

DOWN

1 First extra inning
2 Initial chip
3 Kennedy successor
4 Villainous look
5 Prize for Sandra Bullock
6 1/746 horsepower
7 Bellow
8 Dark
9 Boorish sorts
10 Speedometer stat
12 Answer
14 So
15 Scarlet
19 Sajak or Summerall
20 Dead heat
21 Skewered entree
22 Actor Elizondo
23 Copenhagen resident
24 Strand
25 Chart
26 Tiny fish
28 Short fishing line
29 First-stringers
30 Gave as an example
31 Grooving on
32 Past
34 Duel tool
35Catastrophic

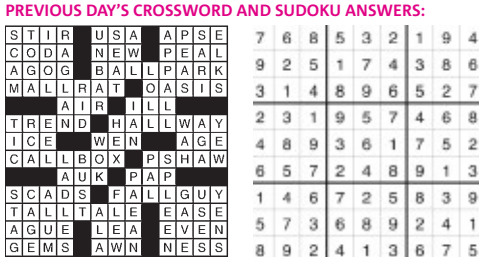
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			4		6			1
5	4		2			8		
	6		9					
						7		9
8	3						4	5
2		6						
					9		1	
		1			7		8	3
7			5		4			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	6	8	5	3	2	1	9	4
9	2	5	1	7	4	3	8	6
3	1	4	8	9	6	5	2	7
2	3	1	9	5	7	4	6	8
4	8	9	3	6	1	7	5	2
6	5	7	2	4	8	9	1	3
1	4	6	7	2	5	8	3	9
5	7	3	6	8	9	2	4	1
8	9	2	4	1	3	6	7	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Broiled Salmon with Avocado-Mango Salsa

INGREDIENTS:

2 1/2 tsp paprika
2 tsp ground coriander
3/4 tsp salt
4 skinless, boneless salmon fillets
1 large mango, peeled and cut into 1-cm chunks
1 hass avocado, peeled and cut into 1-cm chunks
1 cup canned chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1/3 cup chopped cilantro
1 tsp grated lemon zest
2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
2 tsp olive oil
6 cups mesclun or frisée lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces

METHOD:

1. In large bowl, stir paprika, coriander and salt. Measure out 2 tsp spice mixture and sprinkle over salmon, rubbing it into fish. Place salon, skin-side down, in broiler pan.

2. To remaining spice mixture, add mango, avocado, chickpeas, cilantro, lemon zest, lemon juice, and oil; toss to combine.

3. Broil salmon 15 cm from heat 5 minutes for medium. Serve salmon and salsa on bed of frisée lettuce.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Just because others are going all out to make money does not mean you have to follow their example. What's right for them may not be right for you.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Where you are coming from is of no importance. What matters is where you are going to – and with the Sun in your sign you can really go places now.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Your confidence may be fragile at the moment but that does not mean you should stay at home with the door locked and the drapes closed.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Think about what you are going to say before you actually say it. You may be in an high-spirited mood at the moment but not everyone will appreciate it.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
It may be frustrating that you cannot do what you want to do but even a Leo has to accept that sometimes the world does not revolve according to their needs.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may think that someone is behaving badly, and maybe they are, but it is not your job to point it out to them.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
What happens today may shatter a few illusions but at least you'll know where you stand. Social activities may have to take a back seat for the moment.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You have allowed worries to grow so that you can think of nothing else. In the greater scheme of things, our everyday cares are of little consequence.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you are finding it difficult to sit down and talk things over with others you should take it as a sign that this is not the right time.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Stay alert and don't get angry when events you had not anticipated disrupt your routine. Like it or not you cannot possibly control each and every detail.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
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- 4-speed Steptronic automatic transmission
- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability§
- 6 airbags and anti-lock braking system (ABS)

HWY: 8.0 L/100KM 35 MPG CITY: 10.2 L/100KM 28 MPG^

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